Daily Report

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Peres, 'Arafat Continue Talks in Bucharest 1
Peres, 'Arafat Meet for 3 Sessions *[AFP]* 1
Peres, 'Arafat Hold News Conference *[Jerusalem TV]* 1
Accord Reached on 3 Committees *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Another Round of Palestinian Autonomy Talks Ends 2
Talks To Resume 24 Apr *[MENA]* 2
Sha'th on 'Considerable' Progress *[MENA]* 2
Shahaq Comments *[MENA]* 2
Conclusion Expected 'Next Week' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
Shahaq, Sha'th Comment *[Jerusalem International]* 4
Sha'th on 'Four-Phase' Accord *[Sanaa VOP]* 5
Israeli Delegation Leaves Cairo *[MENA]* 5
Israel's Shohat on 'Possible Crisis,' 'New Demands' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 6

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Council Reiterates Duties, Rights *['AQIDATI 12 Apr]* 6

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: 'Problem Is With Israelis,' Not Hamas *[London AL-HAYAH 21 Apr]* 7
'Arafat To Meet With Hamas Leaders in Jordan *[MENA]* 8
Hamas Statement Reiterates Opposition to Israel *[Al-Quds Radio]* 8
Hamas Lists Conditions for 'Truce' With Israel *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 9
Hamas Leaflet Links Israeli Withdrawal, Cease-Fire *['AL HAMISHMAR 21 Apr]* 9
Hamas Said Set To Announce New Political Program *[Jerusalem TV]* 9
'Arafat Reportedly Refused Entrance to Gaza, Jericho *[AKHBAR AL-USBU' 21 Apr]* 9
Sha'th on Western Failure To Fulfill Aid Pledges *[INA]* 9
'Confrontation' in Fatah Meeting on Economic Agreement
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Apr] 10
Fatah Concerned Over Israeli Practices in Territories *[AL-QUDS 21 Apr]* 10
Islamic Leader on 'Peace Initiative' With Israel *[AL-NAHAR 21 Apr]* 10
Paper on 'Campaign of Detentions' in Territories *[AL-TALI'AH 21 Apr]* 11
Russian Role in Peace Process Considered *[AL-QUDS 20 Apr]* 11

Egypt

Mubarak Sends Message to Bucharest Forum *[Cairo Radio]* 12
Mubarak To Visit UAE 23 Apr *[MENA]* 12
Envoy to UN Calls For Measures in Bosnia *[Cairo Radio]* 12
UN Failure To Intervene in Bosnia Criticized *[MENA]* 12
Saudi Trade Minister Visits Cairo *[SPA]* 13
New Tensions Between Cairo, Khartoum Reported *[AL-SAFIR 15 Apr]* 13
Security Services Investigating Leaks to al-Jihad Group *[AL-WAFD 18 Apr]* 14
Shaykh Denies BBC Report on Antigovernment Acts *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 18 Apr]* 14
Ten Foreigners Executed for Drug Trafficking *[MENA]* 14

Libya

Tarhunah Chemical Weapons Plant Described *[Milan PANORAMA 16 Apr]* 14

Morocco

Article Examines Country's Fundamentalist Movement *[London AL-HAYAH 19 Apr]* 15

Sudan

Al-Bashir Receives Message From Iraqi President *[Omdurman Radio]* 17
Iraqi Minister Departs *[Baghdad Radio]* 17

Western Sahara

President Threatens War in 3 Months If No Referendum *[Madrid Radio]* 17
Polisario Leader Comments *[National Radio of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic]* 18

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Yemen

Commander Says Implementing Accord Could End Crisis *[INA]* 19
Basindwa Denies Diplomatic 'Reshuffle' Aimed at YSP
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 20 Apr] 19

IRAQ

Saddam Address Marks Al-Faw Anniversary *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 18 Apr]* 20
'Aziz Addresses Rights Symposium, Criticizes Embargo *[INA]* 23
Talabani on Paris Talks, Kurdistan Conditions *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 23
Opposition Figure Visits Israel, Holds Talks With Rabin *[AKHBAR AL-USBU' 21 Apr]* 25
Paper Discusses 'New Iraqi Move' To Lift Embargo *[INA]* 25
Paper Examines U.S. Helicopter Incident *[BABIL 16 Apr]* 25
Paper Comments on Recent Downing of U.S. Helicopters *[INA]* 26

ISRAEL

Rabin States Willingness To Remove Golan Settlements *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Evacuation Applies to West Bank, Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Editorial Examines Rabin's Remarks on Golan *[HA'ARETZ 21 Apr]* 27
Golan Lobby To Launch Information Campaign *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Rabin Holds Consultations on 'Final Stage' of Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Rabin: PLO Pact 'Only Possibility' Against Extremists *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Gaza Closure Eased After IDF-Fatah Agreement *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
Soldier Killed; Rabin Blames 'Enemies of Peace' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Said Responsible *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Ten 'Wanted People' Return From Libya, Algeria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Return of Fatah Hawks Deportees Reported *[Jerusalem TV]* 30
MIA Relatives, Delegation Meet al-Husayni *[Jerusalem International]* 30

JORDAN

Al-Majali, Peres Not Scheduled To Meet in Romania *[Jerusalem International]* 31
Minister Explains al-Majali's Cancellation *[AKHIR KHABAR 21-22 Apr]* 31
Parliament Rejects Israeli, Western 'Accusations' *[Amman Radio]* 31
AL-RA'Y Terms Christopher's Statements Positive *[22 Apr]* 32
U.S. Embassy Blamed for 'Blackout' on Muscat Talks *[AL-RA'Y 21 Apr]* 32
Ministry Asks Iraqi Opposition To Cease Activities *[AKHBAR AL-USBU' 21 Apr]* 33
Al-Majali Receives Iraqi, Yemeni Awqaf Ministers *[Amman Radio]* 33
Crown Prince Receives Former Algerian President *[Amman TV]* 33

Paper Welcomes Shift in Hamas Position on Peace *[JORDAN TIMES 21-22 Apr]* 34

LEBANON

Ja'ja' Arrested 21 Apr, To Be Interrogated *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Army Seizes FRC Camp, Detains Personnel *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Syrian Forces Assist in Raids *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Weapons, Vehicles Seized *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Minister Invalidates Firearms Licenses for 2 Days *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Al-Hariri, Syrian Minister Discuss Ties, Projects *[TISHRIN 2 Apr]* 35
Syrian, Lebanese Ministers Discuss Transport, Agriculture *[TISHRIN 9 Apr]* 36
Israeli Gunboats, Artillery Shell Southern Areas *[Beirut Radio]* 36

SYRIA

'Something New' Sought From Christopher Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 37
Papers View Christopher Statements on Upcoming Tour *[Damascus Radio]* 37
U.S. Diplomacy Must Go Beyond 'Mailman's Mission' *[Damascus Radio]* 38
Daily Urges Arabs To Stop Israeli 'Infiltration' *[Damascus Radio]* 39

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Opposition Forces Launch Rocket Attack on Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 40
Mojahedin, Islamic Forces Reportedly Clear Area *[Kabul Radio]* 40
Dostum Militia General Killed by Hekmatyar Forces *[Kabul Radio]* 40
Mojaddedi on Alliance With Dostam, Continuation of War
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 20 Apr] 40

Bangladesh

Rebels, Troops Trade Charges of Cease-Fire Violations *[AFP]* 41
Indian Governor Discusses Refugees With Minister *[Dhaka International]* 42
Visits Repatriated Chakma Refugees *[Dhaka International]* 42
Impact of GATT on Third World Farmers Viewed *[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 12 Apr]* .. 42

India

Minister Rejects Opposition Charges on GATT *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Iranian, Indian Ministers Discuss GATT, Employment *[Delhi TV]* 43
Resumption of Talks on Textiles With U.S. Welcomed *[Delhi International]* 43
Pakistani 'Propaganda' on Mission to Kashmir Rejected *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Task Force Agrees on Joint Projects With Nepal *[Delhi Radio]* 44

Iran

Bosnian Envoy Says Gorazde Fall 'Western Plot' *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Students Demonstrate Against UN 'Silence' *[IRNA]* 45
Commentary Assesses Clinton's Remarks on Gorazde *[Tehran Radio]* 45
'Saboteurs' From Iran Blamed for 19 Apr Bombing *[IRNA]* 45
Commentary Notes 'Insane' Actions of Saddam Husayn *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 9 Apr]* 46
Further on IAEA Director's Visit, Comments 46
Blix Interviewed *[Tehran TV]* 46
Rowhani Criticizes 'Propaganda' *[IRNA]* 47
Commentary Views Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Downing of U.S. Helicopters in Iraq Assessed *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 19 Apr]* 48
Editorial on 'Continued Severance' of Ties With U.S. *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 10 Apr]* 48
'Hostile' U.S. Policy Said Harming Reconciliation Hopes
[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 18 Apr] 49
Commentary Says U.S. 'Disrupting' Security *[RESALAT 10 Apr]* 50

President Receives Libyan Official, Message *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Aid Convoy Leaves for Azerbaijani Border *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Australian Ambassador Comments on Trade Balance *[IRNA]* 51
Daily Examines Actions of Islamic Resistance Group *[IRNA]* 52
Larijani on Impact of Israel's Entry Into Gulf *[ETTELA'AT 7 Apr]* 52
Saudi Arabia, U.S. Criticized for Causing 'Discord' *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 4 Apr]* 53
Monetary, Banking Regulations for Free Zones Approved *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Measures To Improve Defense Capabilities Seen *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 16 Apr]* 54

Nepal & Bhutan

Prime Minister Leaves for Medical Checkup in U.S. *[AFP]* 54

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Denies U.S. Seeking Military Bases *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Bhutto Urges UN Security Council To Act Against Serbs *[Islamabad TV]* 55
Bhutto on Bosnia, Kashmir, Nuclear Policy *[Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG 21 Apr]* 55
Accord Outlines German Economic Assistance *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
'Massive Crackdown' Forces Arab Nationals To Flee *[THE FRONTIER POST 21 Apr]* 57
Regiment From Punjab Reportedly Sent to Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Talbott Visit, Nuclear Program Viewed *[THE MUSLIM 16 Apr]* 57
Supreme Court Orders Restoration of NWFP Assembly *[Islamabad TV]* 59

Arab-Israeli Talks

Peres, 'Arafat Continue Talks in Bucharest

Peres, 'Arafat Meet for 3 Sessions

AU2104124494 Paris AFP in English 1228 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Bucharest, April 21 (AFP)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said an accord to launch Palestinian self-rule was "very near" as he attempted to clear away the remaining obstacles delaying autonomy in Gaza and Jericho in talks here Thursday with PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Israeli officials said Peres and 'Arafat discussed the possibility of a meeting between the PLO leader and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, but no more details were given.

In Cairo, where PLO and Israeli negotiators held further talks Thursday, PLO chief negotiator Nabil Sha'th said Rabin and 'Arafat were expected to sign a final accord on the launch of Palestinian self-rule in the first week in May.

"It will very probably be between Monday, May 2, and Wednesday, May 4," Sha'th said. "Rabin and Arafat will meet in Cairo over two days."

Peres said 'Arafat was "encouraged by the good news" coming from the Cairo talks.

"We feel we are very near to the conclusion of an agreement" on autonomy, Peres said.

The PLO and Israel would "try to resume and conclude the talks as soon as possible," he said, adding that there were "some remaining issues which are being negotiated in Cairo."

"Both the Palestinians and us are deeply interested in shortening the transition."

Peres told Israeli radio differences remained over control of airspace and territorial waters, jurisdiction in the future autonomous areas and the Palestinian autonomy council due to oversee five years of interim self-rule leading up to a final settlement.

After his first meeting with Arafat in the Romanian capital Peres also noted differences over economic issues and the identity papers Palestinians would carry.

Peres and 'Arafat held three sessions of talks, their first since a Jewish settler slaughtered 30 Palestinians at a Hebron mosque on February 25 leading the PLO to halt the autonomy talks for five weeks. They were due to give a joint press conference at the end of the day.

Romanian officials said they would also have a joint meeting with Romanian President Ion Iliescu Thursday, before co-chairing a session of the Crans-Montana Forum, an international conference on the economic future of the Middle East.

Israel was due to begin a troop withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho on December 13 and complete it by April 13, but the handover was delayed by disagreements over security arrangements and the disruption caused by the Hebron massacre.

On arrival in Bucharest 'Arafat again deplored the fact that the April 13 deadline had not been kept. However, Peres said he hoped the pullout would take place "as soon as possible."

After his first session of talks with 'Arafat he said he had tried to dispel the PLO leader's anxiety about implementation of the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington last September.

'Arafat, originally scheduled to leave Bucharest Friday, will instead leave Thursday evening because of "an urgent meeting of the Executive Committee" of the PLO, he said.

Peres, 'Arafat Hold News Conference

TA2104180194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Report on joint news conference by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Bucharest on 21 April—recorded]

[Text] A joint news conference by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat ended in Bucharest a short while ago. The two summed up with satisfaction 24 hours of intensive discussions. The following is an excerpt of the news conference:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat, in English] We are all doing our best to find a solution for this conflict. I don't want to say conflict, no, but it's a conflict between brothers. I am sure of that, especially with his excellency, Mr. Peres, with his goodwill, we can push forward the peace process.

[Peres] So I think the unhappiness of Yugoslavia is different from the unhappiness in the Middle East, and furthermore, in Yugoslavia you have an aggressor and you have a victim. In the case of the Middle East you have two negotiators who are trying to put an end to the conflict. [end recording]

Accord Reached on 3 Committees

TA2104184794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] In their talks in Bucharest today Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO leader, Yasir 'Arafat, agreed to establish and man three committees which will operate during the overlap period between the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal and the establishment of autonomy: a committee on routine security, a committee on joint patrols, and a committee on the transfer of administration powers.

Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that Peres and 'Arafat will meet again in an hour for the fourth time. They will then decide whether they will meet in Cairo next weekend. The two sides apparently set the first week of May as a target date for the signing of the agreement.

In a speech before the economic forum in Bucharest Minister Peres said that the peace process is irreversible. In his speech, 'Arafat condemned acts of violence by both sides, saying the PLO is committed to democracy and a market economy. He again warned that if an agreement is not achieved, balkanization of the Middle East is expected.

An agreement was achieved in the Paris economic talks between Israel and the PLO on free tourism traffic between Israel and the autonomy. At the same time, our correspondent Yo'av Tocker notes that the dispute on customs issues remains.

Another Round of Palestinian Autonomy Talks Ends

Talks To Resume 24 Apr

NC2104123294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—The Palestinian and Israeli negotiators ended a round of negotiations in Cairo on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement with a meeting by the Civilian Affairs Committee this morning.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, said the negotiations with the Israelis will resumed on 24 April to discuss the remaining outstanding issues. He said that only five clauses remain to be discussed in the general agreement between the two sides.

Sha'th explained that the first air route to be established after an international airport is established in Gaza will be between Gaza and Cairo.

Sha'th on 'Considerable' Progress

NC2104153194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations designed to implement self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, has stated that considerable progress has been made in the past two days despite the difficulties encountered at the beginning of this round of talks. At a news conference today, he said that the next round of talks will begin on Sunday, voicing his hope that it will be the "last."

Sha'th pointed out that the Security Committee settled satisfactorily all pending issues, such as water, regional planning, and the electromagnetic field.

Regarding the agreement on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord, Sha'th said that only five paragraphs remain to be worked out. He noted that this agreement, which is considered the key to the detailed agreements, has 24 clauses. He said that both the Palestinian and Israeli parties have come close to reaching an agreement on the legal jurisdictions that meet the Palestinian needs and the contents of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

Dr. Sha'th noted that there are still issues pending on the release of Palestinian detainees, noting that there is an agreement to release 5,000 detainees. He said that the Palestinian delegation will continue negotiations on a timetable for the release of the rest of the detainees.

Dr. Sha'th stressed that the meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Bucharest today has helped push the negotiations forward, noting that he telephoned 'Arafat this morning on this issue. He pointed out that the talks he held with the head of the Israeli delegation, General Amnon Shahaq, yesterday after his return from Israel helped propel the negotiations. He expressed hope that PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, will come to Cairo to be close to the negotiations. MENA has learned that Abu-Mazin and Peres will arrive in Cairo next week to attend the next round of talks, which is likely to be the last.

Dr. Sha'th stated that an agreement was reached in principle with the Israeli delegation that the first Palestinian flight route will be between Gaza and Cairo, noting that an international airport will be established in Gaza soon.

Dr. Sha'th said he expected the agreement on implementing the self-rule powers in Gaza and Jericho will be signed in Cairo between 2 and 5 May. He noted that 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin will arrive in Cairo in the next two days. On the first day they will negotiate over the remaining issues, including the size of the Jericho area, and will sign the agreement on the next day. He stressed that the main issues will not be postponed until after the agreement is signed but certain secondary and detailed issues will be left until after the signing.

Shahaq Comments

NC2104160294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff and head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks, has said that the Palestinian-Israeli round of talks that concluded in Cairo today was "positive and fruitful." He said that the two sides have come very close to reaching an agreement on implementing self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. At a news conference today before his departure from Cairo, Shahaq said that during this round an agreement was reached on several issues but that certain issues have not yet been settled. He voiced his hope that next week will

be the end of the talks on implementing the Palestinian self-rule. He refused to set a date for signing the agreement on self-rule, but noted that the time is not far away.

Gen. Shahaq said that the Civilian Affairs Committee has nearly finished numerous issues submitted to it, such as water and communications. He noted that certain issues have not yet been settled, such as stamps and telephone codes. He pointed out that the Security Committee settled a working paper related to the Palestinian police, but certain issues remain to be worked out. Regarding the Legal Affairs Committee, he voiced his hope that progress will be achieved in the work of this committee next week.

Gen. Shahaq stated that an agreement was reached on the legal jurisdictions, but he declined to define the points of the agreement, noting that certain topics will be postponed to be discussed by higher echelons. He noted that the Palestinian and Israeli delegations are waiting for the resolutions of the Economic Affairs Committee currently meeting in Paris, which has not yet finished its work. He said that the resolutions that will be reached in Paris will be annexed to the other resolutions to work out a general agreement that will be implemented in Gaza and Jericho.

Gen. Shahaq pointed out that there are still issues on which the two sides disagree; they will be postponed until after the signing of the executive agreement on Gaza and Jericho.

Responding to a question on the Jericho area maps and the reservations shown by the Palestinian delegation on this issue, Shahaq said that what was signed in the "Cairo agreement" will not be broached or negotiated again.

Regarding the Palestinian delegation's statement that there is an understanding on the release of all Palestinian detainees without distinction, Gen. Shahaq said: "This is what the Palestinians are saying, not the Israelis." He noted that an agreement was reached to release 5,000 out of 8,400 detainees in two stages.

Regarding the legal jurisdiction and its limits if a Palestinian citizen should commit a crime in Israel and flee to Gaza, Gen. Shahaq said that in such a case he would be handed over to Israel to stand trial. Concluding his news conference, Gen. Shahaq pointed out that an agreement was reached on all issues related to the crossing points between the self-rule areas and Israel. He noted that no agreement has been reached regarding the Palestinian authority at sea and in the air, which is under the Security Committee.

Conclusion Expected 'Next Week'

TA2104165694

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 21 April reports that "the latest round of Israeli-PLO talks ended in Cairo a short while ago. The talks are slated to resume at the beginning of next week." Dr. Nabil Sha'th told correspondent Moti Amir that "several important understandings in the security and civil spheres were achieved this week," and that he expects that an agreement on the autonomy's legal powers will be achieved next week.

"Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, head of the Civilian Affairs Committee in the Cairo talks, estimated that the Civil Administration would be able to transfer powers in Gaza to the Palestinians a few days after the agreement is signed."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1500 GMT on 21 April, reporting on "progress" in the Cairo talks, says that "both sides were optimistic that an agreement could be wrapped up by next week's end. Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks, said Israel could not meet the PLO's demand for a timetable for the release of all Palestinian prisoners before an agreement is signed. He described the week's negotiations as extremely fruitful."

PLO chief delegate, Nabil Sha'th, was also optimistic, and spoke to Qol Yisra'el's Moti Amir about the progress made in this week's talks, and his expectations for next week. He said the negotiations this week concluded "all the elements of the transfer of authority. So, all civilian authorities, or what's called civil authorities, including water, zoning, air transport, telecommunications, electricity, fuel and gas—all of these issues were concluded during this week. We have been able to conclude also several remaining items of the security protocol or the security annex, but we remain with few of these issues, such as the modalities of joint patrols and crossing points, and the passage between Gaza and Jericho, and some elements that remain in the issue of visas and the renewal of visas. All of these will be, I hope, finished during next week. We have decided that next Monday we will be more ready to announce the exact date of the signing. We, in all probabilities and barring major disagreement or major events, we should be concluding everything during next week." Sha'th added: "We are going to do our best to conclude next week and sign the week after."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1505 GMT on 21 April cites a report by Moti Amir who points to the assessment that "a date will be set next week for the signing ceremony on the Gaza-Jericho accord which will take place in Cairo and will be attended by the prime minister, the PLO head, and President Mubarak, the main sponsor of the accord." Amir notes that "the conclusion of the negotiations on the Gaza-Jericho accord also depends on the negotiations on economic issues taking place in Paris." Also, besides the remaining dispute on the legal powers of the autonomy's authority, "the two sides are still divided on the Gaza Strip's fishing zones, the construction of a port there, and the stationing of Palestinian policemen at the border crossings in Jericho and Rafah. Handling of some of these questions will continue after the agreement is signed.

"Brig. Gen. Zohar, head of the Civilian Affairs Committee, emphasized that upon signing the agreement with the Palestinians, a body will be established to coordinate matters between the Palestinian authority and the Israeli authorities." Amir adds that "the final draft of the agreement on civilian issues will be formulated in Cairo next week, except those few issues both sides decided to pass on to the two leaders who will sign the Gaza-Jericho accord."

In an earlier talk with Moti Amir Maj. Gen. Shahaq stressed that about 5,000 prisoners would be released in stages, in accordance with criteria agreed upon by the sides. Still, "the release will not include Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members, terrorists who murdered Jews, or terrorists who operated after the signing of the Declaration of Principles." Understandings will have to be achieved also regarding "Palestinians who are persecuted by their brethren for collaboration with Israel."

Shahaq, Sha'th Comment

JN2104172794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1440 GMT 21 Apr 94

[From the "With the Events" program]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, a new round of talks concluded in Cairo today without reaching agreement on all outstanding issues. Meanwhile, some progress has been made by the Civilian Affairs Committee. Our colleague 'Umar Zaydani sums up the outcome of this round of talks:

[Begin recording] [Zaydani] Another round of negotiations was concluded between Israeli and PLO representatives in Cairo this afternoon. This round of talks registered great progress on several topics listed on the agenda, according to Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks. The topics negotiated by the Civilian Affairs Committee have almost been settled. However, some issues, such as the Palestinians' demand to have an international telephone zone number, as well as issues pertaining to stamps and passports, are yet to be decided. They will be decided later, that is, after the agreement is signed.

[Shahaq, in Hebrew, with superimposed translation into Arabic] There is also the issue pertaining to the economic talks currently under way in Paris. An agreement has to be reached in this regard. We have to know what is happening there in order to incorporate the economic agreement into the overall agreement. There are hurdles facing the Security Committee and the Legal Affairs Committee, although some progress has been made. Some points on which agreement has been reached have been initialed. With respect to the issues that are still under consideration, they concern setting a timetable for the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees. The outstanding issues within these committees will be discussed early next week. If things continue to proceed as they are doing right now, that is, if progress continues to be made, we will soon finalize what needs to finalized.

[Zaydani] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: Another week of negotiations between Israel and the PLO has ended. You seem to be close to an agreement. What are the outstanding issues at present?

[Sha'th] As is well known, we have completed the agreement on the complete transfer of civilian authorities, including tough issues such as water, electronics, radio communications, air traffic, etc. Likewise, we have completed the larger part of the overall agreement. Nonetheless, agreement is yet to be reached on four or five sentences. Some security issues whose discussion was postponed until next week will have to be decided. An overall deal, also known as a package deal [preceding two words in English] will have to be reached on them. With regard to the issue of jurisdiction [preceding word in English] over territory, the population, and functions, a solution to this issue has been reached. Nonetheless, this solution needs to be drafted and agreed upon in detail next week.

With respect to the issue of the Palestinian deportees, I would like to reaffirm that there has been a definite agreement to release 5,000 prisoners. However, we want to set up a framework for the release of the remaining prisoners next week. Such a framework must, at least, establish the bases for setting specific timetables for the release of prisoners. I believe both sides can agree on this issue next week. Next week, we will announce a date for the final signing of the agreement. I hope the agreement will be signed during the period 2-5 May.

[Zaydani] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: With regard to the Palestinian prisoners, this issue is of great importance to the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Will all Palestinian prisoners be released? Or does Israel have any reservations on the release of some prisoners?

[Sha'th] Israel has made public its reservations about the release of Hamas prisoners and detainees. These reservations were the outcome of the two recent operations carried out in 'Afula and Hadera. However, I believe this Israeli opposition to releasing Hamas prisoners is connected to the outcome and impact of these two operations. However, the principle we seek to entrench is that of a general amnesty. Moreover, the Declaration of Principles provides for a general amnesty. We want all parties to be covered by this amnesty. This means we should not leave in jail those who resisted or fought during the period that preceded the signing of the agreement. This requires the setting of timetables. To the best of my knowledge, Israeli law stipulates that some categories of prisoners cannot be released, but can be handed over to another authority. When the Palestinian leadership takes over authority in Gaza and Jericho, this law will apply to all residents of Gaza and Jericho. When we take over authority in the West Bank, this law will also apply to the residents of the West Bank. The issue has to be governed by both principles and timetables.

[Zaydani] Have the talks been promoted by the fact that Abu-Mazin [PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas] is currently in Cairo, not to mention the meeting held between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Bucharest?

[Sha'th] Undoubtedly, these two developments have had a positive effect. The fact that brother Abu-Mazin is around enables us to meet with him two or three times a day. He received us and the Israeli delegation, that is, the chief Israeli negotiators, once. I believe this had a positive effect. It goes without saying that the high-level meetings held with President 'Arafat can expedite the rapid attainment of an agreement.

[Zaydani] What about the civil aviation agreements?

[Sha'th] We reached an agreement in principle in this regard this week. The arrangements or modalities [preceding three words in English] for this agreement are yet to be agreed upon. I believe the agreement reached in principle in this regard is good. It provides for the opening of airports in Gaza and Jericho. It also provides for operating commercial and civilian planes between Gaza and Jericho, and also between them and neighboring capitals; at least, the capitals that are are currently bound by ties in the context of peace. In the future, when peace prevails in the region, this network of communications will spread. That is why we said that the first international air route that will be launched will be between Gaza airport and Cairo International Airport.

[Zaydani] One last question. It seems that the agreement will be signed, although some other differences regarding passports and stamps are yet to be resolved.

[Sha'th] With regard to Palestinian passports, Palestinian stamps, the size of the Jericho area, and the presence of Palestinian soldiers at the Allenby Bridge will be left to be decided by President 'Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin when the two meet.

[Zaydani] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: Thank you very much.

[Sha'th] You are welcome. [end recording]

Sha'th on 'Four-Phase' Accord

JN2204103394 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Summary from poor reception] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser and chief of the Palestinian negotiating team to the ongoing Cairo talks, has stressed that settlement activities are "a major obstacle" to the peace process. Regarding the failure to achieve withdrawal on the fixed dates and the frequent stoppage of talks, Dr. Sha'th said that peace can be achieved step by step, adding that "peace must result in the repatriation of refugees to their country and the establishment of a state with Jerusalem as its capital." Sha'th said that peace must also results in a strong Palestinian economy, noting that "peace provides Israel with peace and security" and strengthens its economy without depending on U.S. support.

The chief Palestinian negotiator also dwelt on the developments in the peace process. He said: We are in the first phase of the "four-phase" peace process. In this phase, "which will last several weeks," withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho will take place and the Palestinian Political Department will enter Gaza and Jericho. The second phase is the deployment of 4,000 Palestinian police one week after Israeli withdrawal. Meanwhile, we will be ready to receive economic aid and work on the infrastructure will be launched. During this period, a committee will arrange for the return of (?88,000) refugees. Dr. Sha'th said that the interim phase should not exceed five years. He added that during the third phase, Israeli forces will withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and then a force of 15,000 Palestinians will become in charge of security affairs. Then, international forces will come in to prepare for the election of a "Palestinian legislative council." In the fourth phase, more important issues will be discussed such as security, settlements, borders, [words indistinct].

Palestinian-Israeli talks resumed in Cairo yesterday with the aim of removing the obstacles preventing the implementation of the self-rule agreement in Gaza and Jericho. Responsible Palestinian sources said that the two delegations "are drafting a general agreement." The sources added that the Civilian and Legal Affairs Committees will resume their meetings later. The Palestinian sources said that "progress was achieved" on various issues. Palestinian and Israeli negotiators reached agreement, during the Taba talks, on setting up the Palestinian radio and television station. Reports said there are major obstacles to the work of the Security and Civilian Affairs Committees following the paper presented by Israel at the end of the previous round of talks with regard to the legal jurisdiction of the Palestinian self-rule.

Israeli Delegation Leaves Cairo

NC2104141394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1332 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA) –The Israeli delegation participating in the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks led by Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq left Cairo this afternoon after a visit of several days and the end of a round of talks with the Palestinian delegation.

In a statement made before his departure, Shahaq said that the talks will resume in Cairo on Sunday to follow up on the previous rounds. He said that progress was made on the civilian and legal issues, noting that the talks were held in a positive atmosphere.

Israel's Shohat on 'Possible Crisis,' 'New Demands'

TA2104161094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Report by special correspondent in Paris Eldad Beck]

[Text] Until midday today, the Israeli delegates spoke of serious difficulties the economic talks were encountering, but now Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who heads the delegation, speaks of a possible crisis. According to Shohat, the Palestinians presented new demands during this week's talks. He has informed chief Palestinian delegate Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] that these demands are unacceptable and that they are liable to result in a very serious crisis in the economic negotiations.

Shohat asserted that the Palestinians want to expand the list of products whose customs Israel has consented to reduce. The original list has been doubled by the Palestinians, and it now includes goods to be imported from countries which do not trade with Israel, namely Arab countries. We cannot agree to such things, Shohat said; the import regime must be uniform.

There is no telling whether the Israeli verbal escalation was designed to produce psychological pressure on the Palestinians. In any event, the negotiations will continue through the night. Tomorrow the finance minister will return to Israel to attend the 24 April cabinet meeting. He will fly back to Paris straight after the meeting. The Israeli delegation will stay in the French capital to continue the talks with the Palestinians.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Council Reiterates Duties, Rights

NC2104160494 Cairo 'AQIDATI in Arabic 12 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] The Islamic Research Council, headed by his eminence the grand imam of al-Azhar, has issued the following statement in response to remarks on al-Azhar by some writers:

Praise be to God and prayers and salutations be on God's messenger Muhammad and all prophets and messengers. "Our Lord! Decide thou between us and our people in truth, for thou art the best to decide." [Koranic verse] The Islamic Research Council of al-Azhar has examined remarks by some writers about al-Azhar, particularly about al-Azhar's examination of [literary and artistic] material. The council issues this statement to the Egyptian people as a reminder and in eagerness to explain and stress the task it is entrusted with. The essence of this task is to promote God's religion through wisdom and good advice; as Almighty God said, "Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good, enjoying what is right, and forbidding what is wrong: They are the ones to attain felicity." [Koranic verse]

What is to the credit of our glorious nation is that religiousness has been instilled in the Egyptian people's souls since history began. The Egyptian people, including all their trends and inclinations, are clearly religious and adhere to God's teachings.

Al-Azhar has always been the place sought by students of Islamic knowledge from all parts of the world and from the Islamic world east and west in realization of God's command in his holy book "If a contingent from every expedition remain behind, admonish the people when they return to them that thus they may learn to guard themselves against evil." [Koranic verses]

Al-Azhar's task also is to study Islamic sciences, explain the facts of religion to people at home and abroad, and present them to the people pure, sound, and void of odious bigotry and extremism. This is so because al-Azhar seeks a middle course and moderation—a characteristic by which al-Azhar and its institutions have been known throughout history—out of the conviction that this religion is easy and one should not go to extremes. This lays on al-Azhar the duty to convey the message of Islam to all nations, defend it, and explain its effect on the progress of mankind and civilization.

It is the destiny of al-Azhar to be the trusted guardian of Islamic values and the cultural heritage of this nation. This has become deeply entrenched in the minds of the Egyptian people, who flock in alarm to the al-Azhar mosque for advice on every issue that concerns their Islamic creed, shari'ah, and ethics. These are precisely the Islamic principles legislated by the Egyptian Constitutions, laws, and by-laws in Egypt, culminating in the declaration that Islam is the state's religion, Arabic its official language, and the principles of the Islamic shari'ah the main source of legislation.

If this were the established rule, and indeed it is, then there should not be room for any discordant voices or writers with twisted ideology to question al-Azhar's right to caution against whatever may contradict the teachings of Islam or exceed the limits set by God Almighty in His Koran or in the teachings of His prophet, peace be upon him, or that it is the ultimate authority in this regard. These voices and writers are not new to the scene. For decades they have tried to advocate alien and imported ideologies and materialistic philosophies, to antagonize the heavenly revelation, and to conspire against Islam, only to be defeated and fail on every occasion, thank God. Today, once again they have come out into the open, taking advantage of the extremists' plots, to undermine Islam in its entirety, or rather to strike at religion in general.

The noble al-Azhar has always been and continues to be against any form of extremism and eager to show the bright image of Islam, in a bid to uphold what is right, refute and uproot what is wrong, and to promote virtue and prohibit vice, as God has ordered, with wisdom and good advice. If some are riding the wave of extremism and excess, it is the duty of those who are well versed to

straighten out their deviation and restore them to reason. As for those who cannot tolerate Islam and who declare themselves and their writings to be at war against its rules and rites, there is no place for them in this arena, for they are the ones who make things worse by combating extremism with an even more misleading and harmful extremism.

Judging by their conduct, it is clear that they hold no reverence for Allah. Their boldness against Islam's heritage and its sources in the Koran and the prophet's tradition is evident to all, beyond any doubt. They fail to realize that in drifting away from God's religion there is no distinction between deviation to the right or to the left, between adding and omitting, and between those who question God's religion and those who are ungrateful to it.

Being the higher body involved in Islamic research, it is the Islamic Research Council's duty "to give its views on any sectarian, social, or economic problem that comes up," and "to follow up on all the studies and researches published on Islam and the Islamic heritage inside the country and abroad to benefit from whatever authentic views they contain, or to counter, correct, or react to them." To attain its goals under the powers invested in it, the Council may issue recommendations to individuals and groups involved in the field of Islamic culture in public and private organizations.

It would have been better for the voices and pens that contest the Honorable al-Azhar's missions to have followed the call to pursue an orthodox line of conduct, in word and deed as well as in performance, and avoided sparking off disagreements on religious issues. They are well aware that those who follow the call are careful to obey God's word and cherish Islam, their creed and canon.

Accordingly, and since the al-Azhar shaykh is by law "the grand imam and the highest opinion on all religion-related matters," the Council—supported by its chairman, the grand imam of al-Azhar—will continue, along with him, to protect the Koran and its tradition, guard the bounds established by Allah, and necessarily draw attention to the need to rectify deviations or twisted conduct regardless of its kind or source.

"For the scum disappears like froth cast out, while that which is for the good of mankind remains on Earth." [Koranic verse]

May Allah guide our steps. God as our witness, we have conveyed the message.

[Signed] Honorable al-Azhar Shaykh and Chairman of the Islamic Research Center Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: 'Problem Is With Israelis,' Not Hamas

PM2104142094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p1

[Report by Jalal al-Mashitah: "'Arafat Believes the Problem Is With the Occupation Not With Hamas"]

[Text] Moscow—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has told AL-HAYAH that negotiations with the Israelis are "useless." He said that the Israelis "are quite distant from the so-called peace, reconciliation, or settlement." He also attacked the U.S. Administration, claiming that "it paid Israel, in advance, everything it asked for as a price for peace, and more." He stressed that there is no problem with Hamas. "Our problem is with the Israelis and the occupation."

'Arafat left Moscow yesterday for Bucharest, concluding a visit during which he met with President Boris Yeltsin, who said that the establishment of peace is one of Russia's "strategic priorities." He also promised political support for the Palestinians to boost the negotiation process. It is understood that he intends to convey 'Arafat's "complaint" to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who is due in Moscow next Sunday.

Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] told AL-HAYAH that his visit to Moscow was "important, positive, and fruitful. It is the first visit by an Arab leader to the Russian Federation after the major change that has taken place in that country. We held extensive and useful talks with President Boris Yeltsin and his Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on the grounds that Russia is one of the two sponsors of the peace conference and one of the signatories of our agreement with the Israelis at the White House. Furthermore, Security Council Resolution 904 calls on the two sponsors to implement the resolution, and that includes taking on the responsibility of sending UN forces to Palestine, beginning with Hebron, to protect the Palestinian people."

Answering a question, 'Arafat said "I have old links with the Russian Orthodox Church. I had strong links with the late Patriarch Pimen. We discussed many issues with His Holiness Aleksiy II, especially the effects of the peace process on the position of Jerusalem from the Christian and Islamic angles."

On the negotiations on autonomy implementation, he said: "Any negotiations with the Israelis are useless because Israel's aim is to waste time, maneuver, dither, and procrastinate. We are continuing the negotiations but there is a limit to patience. I have said that to President Yeltsin and I have sent official messages to this effect to U.S. President Bill Clinton, the leaders of the permanent members of the Security Council, the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic summit, and the Arab League to bring all face to face with their responsibilities. The aim of this Israeli Government is to procrastinate and play for time. It does not

want to implement anything on the ground, and it bears the responsibility for all the consequences of that attitude. Let God be my witness that I have told the truth. For our part, we have done everything and have been fully flexible but they are quite detached from the so-called peace, reconciliation, or settlement."

Is Israeli intransigence the only reason? He said: "The U.S. Administration bears the responsibility, for it has paid Israel, in advance and before anything was implemented, everything Israel asked for as a price for peace, and more, including most advanced aircraft, internationally banned nerve gas—recently seized on a boat near Sri Lanka—a $10 billion loan, and advanced computers.

"It has provided economic, financial, and political aid, so why do the Israelis not offer anything? Our Arab nation should understand this. I consider myself a fedayeen in an advanced position in the peace process. God is my witness."

Asked whether the Israeli intransigence would lead to rapprochement with the other Palestinian factions, particularly after statements by Hamas officials that they might accept the peace process, 'Arafat replied: "Our problem is with the Israelis and the occupation. There are no problems between the Palestinian parties. I knew before that my brothers in Hamas had a line of accepting it (the peace process) along the road to the forthcoming elections, that is if the Israelis allow the Palestinian people to hold such elections."

Asked what he thought of Israel's deliberate discrimination between Hamas detainees and the rest of the Palestinian detainees, he said: "The PLO has always worked for the release of all the Palestinian detainees from the occupation prisons. Actually, that is an important point as far as enhancement of the negotiation process is concerned. You may recall that I had personally requested the release of Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin from Israeli prison. There was a promise of that but that promise has not yet been fulfilled."

On the date of his return to the occupied territory and Rabin's assertion that dates are not sacred, the Palestinian President said: "If dates are not sacred, then what is sacred? As regards my return, I do not see this as a personal issue. I speak from a position of responsibility and confront the [peace] conference cosponsors with their international, moral, and political responsibilities in order to save the peace process because the alternative to peace is total chaos in the region and Balkanization. [quotation marks as published]

He finally emphasized that "there is a need for a united Arab position to meet the challenges facing the Arab nation and resulting from the new world order, to ensure that that new order is not at our expense nor at the expense of our nation, generations, and wealth."

'Arafat To Meet With Hamas Leaders in Jordan

NC2204092094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 22 Apr (MENA)—The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD of Abu Dhabi today reports that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will pay an urgent visit to Jordan next week to meet for the first time with the leaders of "Hamas" [Islamic Resistance Movement], which recently offered a truce with Israel in return for the latter's withdrawal from the occupied territories and its dismantling of settlements.

The paper welcomes the visit, noting that it is the first time 'Arafat has met with Hamas leaders, particularly Muhammad Nazzal and Ibrahim Ghawshah, to prepare for full reconciliation between the PLO and the Movement. [passage omitted]

Hamas Statement Reiterates Opposition to Israel

JN2104194994 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued an important statement on recent developments in light of the political perspective set forth by the movement, the various official and media reactions to this perspective, and the statements made by the U.S. secretary of state, enemy officials, and officials of other states.

The statement asserts that the valiant popular resistance will be stepped up, and that jihad and military operations against the Zionist enemy will continue as long as the Zionist enemy continues to occupy our blessed Palestinian territories. The pursuit of this approach will continue until the liberation of all of our usurped Palestinian territories from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River.

The statement also underscored that the negotiations between the 'Arafat leadership and the Zionist entity are doomed to failure, because they were based on consecrating injustice, aggression, and occupation. The statement noted that the statements and communiques issued by the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement have not contained what some attempted to promote, namely, that the movement recognizes the usurpative Zionist entity or accepts UN Security Council Resolution 242, or that it has abandoned its own platform as well as its noble Islamic constants, which deem Palestine to be Islamic territory whose abandonment is forbidden, and over which there can be no bargaining.

Concluding its statement, the Islamic Resistance Movement has reiterated that it, along with all sincere elements of our people, will persist in the jihad and valiant resistance to the savage Zionist enemy along the path of victory and liberation.

Hamas Lists Conditions for 'Truce' With Israel

JN2104135794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] In Damascus, the Hamas Movement has proposed a truce with Israel to find a way out of the Palestinian crisis. In a statement issued in Damascus, Hamas Political Bureau chief Musa Abu-Marzuq said his proposal is based on the following principles: Comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and occupied Jerusalem, and the dismantling of all settlements in the occupied territories and the evacuation of the settlers.

Abu-Marzuq emphasized the need to hold free and fair general elections among the Palestinian people in order to elect their leadership and representatives. He promised the Hamas Movement will respect the views of the majority.

Hamas Leaflet Links Israeli Withdrawal, Cease-Fire

TA2104152094 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads yesterday clarified for the first time that they will stop fighting Israel when it withdraws from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. This is the first time an 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam leaflet has featured such a statement.

The belligerent leaflet announces that Hamas is not intimidated by arrests. On the contrary, the recent spate of arrests will inspire it to escalate its struggle. The leaflet warns Shin Bet officers that their fate will be similar to that of No'am Kohen and Hayim Nahmani.

The leaflet goes on to point out, however, that the movement will pursue its war on "terrorists Rabin and Baraq" as long as even a single Israeli soldier remains in the West Bank and Gaza. Until now, the leaflets of the military branch of Hamas have always referred to an all-out war, and not to a war until the end of occupation.

Hamas Said Set To Announce New Political Program

TA2104171894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources have told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Hamas is on the verge of announcing a new political program that, for the first time, will accept international resolutions. The program is considered a new peace initiative. This, out of concern that after implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord, public support for the PLO will increase considerably at the expense of Hamas.

These sources said that the shift in the position of Hamas is only in the movement's political level, which was epitomized by the statements of Musa Abu-Marzuq, one of Hamas' leaders abroad, to the Jordanian weekly AL-SABIL. These sources stressed that Hamas' military wing opposes this initiative and considers it to be recognition of the State of Israel.

'Arafat Reportedly Refused Entrance to Gaza, Jericho

JN2104150994 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Tunis—Important issues are not leaking out of the current negotiations between Israel and the PLO. Topping these is the primary and sensitive issue in which Israel categorically rejects Yasir 'Arafat's entrance into Jericho and Gaza after the Israeli withdrawal and during the transitional period.

This issue exhausted efforts to achieve progress on the other levels of negotiations. However, Israel considers this issue unquestionable and insists on this stand. As a compromise, the PLO asked Egypt to intervene in order to rescue the situation. Egypt presented a compromise proposal to establish a temporary headquarters for 'Arafat in al-'Arish so he would be close to Gaza in order to organize matters and to take the helm of the government.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' learned from well informed Palestinian sources that Israel has now completed defining what it calls the yellow area between Gaza and Dayr al-Balah, in which there are Israeli settlements, and that this area includes the coast.

In another development, Yasir 'Arafat asked the Russian leadership to intervene in order to cancel Israel's decision not to allow him to enter Gaza and Jericho during the self-rule period. The Soviets promised to use all means to cancel the Israeli decision.

Sha'th on Western Failure To Fulfill Aid Pledges

JN2204100594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Apr (INA)—Nabil Sha'th, the Palestinian president's adviser, has criticized the evasion by the U.S. Administration and other Western countries of their pledges to extend needed financial aid to the Palestinian self-rule area in Gaza and Jericho.

Sha'th told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Cairo yesterday that the United States and other Western countries halted the extension of the pledged financial aid to the Palestinian side. Expressing regret over this deceitful retreat, he said that reality has shown that these pledges were merely promises.

The Palestinian official asserted that, for its part, the Zionist entity has also tried to evade its pledges in the Washington agreement on Palestinian self-rule in Jericho and Gaza. [passage omitted]

'Confrontation' in Fatah Meeting on Economic Agreement

PM2104132294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Confrontation in Fatah Central Committee Meeting; Abu-'Ala' Threatens To 'Resign' Following Hani al-Hasan Accusations"]

[Excerpt] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the meeting held by the Fatah Central Committee on 17 April evening under Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in the PLO headquarters in Tunis, which was attended by Hani al-Hasan after a three-month absence, was stormy and tense. The Central Committee members' escorts who were outside the meeting room heard the heated debates and arguments between Hani al-Hasan on the one hand and Ahmad Quray' (Abu-'Ala'), Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), and Hakam Bal'awi on the other.

The sources said that Abu-'Ala', director of the PLO Economic Department and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Paris economic negotiations with Israel, lost his nerve, became angry, and threatened not to go back to Paris. He violently threw the file of the Palestinian-Israeli economic negotiations on the table as an indication of his refusal to follow up this issue.

According to the same sources, a dispute raged between al-Hasan and Quray' after the latter delivered the report on the Paris negotiations and the economic situation, stressing the importance of the achievements he had made. Al-Hasan's protest was at the fact that this report was delivered verbally in a few minutes. He pointed out that the head of the Israeli delegation to the Paris negotiations "held a television seminar one day before our meeting during which he briefed the Israelis on the content of the Paris negotiations, highlighting the economic and political achievements made by the Israeli side, especially with regard to issuing a Palestinian currency, part of whose reserve would be deposited in the Israeli Central Bank."

Al-Hasan said that "this very serious issue should not be discussed in such a manner. The economic agreement with all its stipulations should be put on the table and distributed to Fatah Central Committee members in order to study it clause by clause."

Asked about his opinion of the economic agreement being prepared in Paris, he said: "The intifadah aimed to sever the economic link and demographic coexistence between the Israelis and the Palestinians, while the economic agreement aims to link the Palestinian economy with the Israeli economy."

In his remarks to Central Committee members, al-Hasan said: "Based on the theory 'tell me what your economy is, and I will tell you what your policy is,' instead of the present transitional phase resulting in the handover of the land and economy, the economic linkage means that at the end of the transitional phase there will be no independence, but, rather, a Palestinian entity within an Israeli framework." [passage omitted]

Fatah Concerned Over Israeli Practices in Territories

TA2104193794 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p 2

[Article by 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Barghuthi]

[Text] Ramallah—Fatah has expressed its profound concern over the escalation of Israeli practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. This escalation has caused the daily fall of martyrs and wounded from the bullets of Israeli soldiers at a time when Rabin's government is claiming that it is keen on achieving peace and a political settlement.

A statement issued by Fatah yesterday queried the type of peace that Rabin's government is seeking while practicing such a systematic policy against the sons of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This week four martyrs, in addition to scores of wounded, fell in the Ramallah area alone from the bullets of Israeli soldiers.

The statement noted that this group of martyrs and wounded fell while there is talk about peace and at a time when Rabin's government is raising a furor over the murder of some Israelis and the United States joins with it in condemning these murders. Whereas, everyone bites his tongue and does not talk about the daily wounds that our people are sustaining at the hands of the occupation forces. Even worse, our peoples's reaction is depicted as terrorism while no one describes Israel's practices as terrorism.

The statement stressed that the countries which are trying to establish peace in the region should, first and foremost, stop Israeli practices and the killings. No one should ask our people to capitulate and die daily. This is impossible.

The statement called on the world to shoulder its responsibility in halting Israeli practices.

Islamic Leader on 'Peace Initiative' With Israel

TA2104171294 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p 3

[By Samir Hamtu]

[Text] In the first comment on the "peace initiative" proposed by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Amman, professor Khalid al-Hindi, dean of the Islamic University and a leader of the Islamic Movement in the Gaza Strip, noted that one cannot interpret this initiative as a concession by the Islamic Movement. He said that the Islamic rejection of the Oslo accord and the peace talks between Israel and the PLO stems from the

fact that this accord does not respond to the Palestinian people's right to freedom, sovereignty, and independence.

Al-Hindi added: If the Israeli-PLO initiative had included full Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, with a commitment to dismantle the settlements, this initiative would not have faced widespread opposition in the Palestinian street and from the Islamic Movement in the current situation.

Al-Hindi pointed out that it can be said that Abu-Marzuq's remarks contain new references to international legitimacy. Al-Hindi expressed the belief that this initiative does not address the issue so clearly as much as it refers to international resolutions. He added: The important thing is not the Palestinian side's but Israel's recognition of those resolutions and its readiness to implement them. The PLO recognized and accepted the international resolutions, but Israel refused to implement them and forced the PLO to accept something less.

Al-Hindi noted that the Islamic Movement will not accept to undergo the same experience and that everything hinges primarily on Israeli readiness in this field.

Al-Hindi denied the possibility of the Islamic Movement's participation in the self-rule bodies. He said: This issue is not relevant. Perhaps there might almost be a consensus to refuse participation in any institutions or bodies supervising the self-rule administration, especially as the Islamic Movement opposes the self-rule plan.

On the effect of this initiative on the current talks between Israel and the PLO, al-Hindi expressed the belief that this initiative does not represent a blow to the PLO because Israel does not desire a just peace that gives the Palestinian people their right to land, freedom, and independence. He added: Israel will continue its march with the terms that are suitable for it.

Al-Hindi expressed the belief that this initiative will not deal a blow to the peace process, nor will it speed up the realization of the Oslo accord because Israel acts on the basis of whatever serves its interests and security.

On his expectations from the Israeli side's response to this initiative, al-Hindi said: I do not expect a significant response from the Israeli side because Israel is not thinking, at all, of implementing international resolutions and withdrawing. Therefore, we do not expect an effective response from the Israeli side since there is agreement to continue the talks with the PLO on the terms that Israel imposes from a position of strength and in which it does not make any concessions.

Hamas, through Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of its political bureau in Amman, had proposed a peace initiative with Israel that contained more flexible and realistic conditions than its previous proposals.

Paper on 'Campaign of Detentions' in Territories

TA2104151794 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p 3

[Editorial: "The Recent Campaign of Detentions"]

[Text] Israel's rulers did not suffice with instructing their negotiating delegation in Cairo to show more intransigence toward the issue of Palestinian detainees and prisoners in Israeli jails but recently gave their security agencies a free hand to detain hundreds of Palestinians in the occupied territories. Meanwhile, they have declared their intention to continue these detentions under the frequently repeated pretext of Israeli security.

At a time when the negotiating Palestinian side in Cairo is insisting on the release of all Palestinian prisoners—be they for or against a settlement—in order to save as much face as possible and to depict the expected settlement as involving the entire Palestinian people, Israel's rulers are intent on embarrassing and blackmailing the Palestinian negotiating side and showing its weakness. Otherwise, this arbitrary campaign of detentions, which is liable to accelerate tension in the occupied territories and not vice versa, would not have been launched.

If all democratic forces in the Arab homeland, Israel, and the world are expected to condemn the recent campaign of detentions, the Palestinian negotiating side is duty bound to draw from this campaign appropriate lessons, perhaps most important of which is to stop the slide and deterioration of the Palestinian negotiating position.

Russian Role in Peace Process Considered

TA2004171894 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 Apr 94 p 11

[Editorial: "Questions About the Russia's Credibility"]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Moscow has again focused attention on Russia's role in the peace process—a role that it has continued to play since the collapse of the Soviet Union. One of the most prominent features of this role has been Russia's cosponsorship, together with the United States, of the peace process from the Madrid Conference to this date.

Much has been said about the dimensions of the Soviet role, and subsequently those of the Russian role. Questions have been raised over the last decades about the credibility of this role through the harsh experience to which Palestinian-Russian (and previously Palestinian-Soviet) relations in particular, and Arab relations with Moscow in general, had been subjected. Comparisons were made between those relations on one hand, and Israeli-U.S. relations on the other.

The realities of the new international order, which have marginalized to a great extent the effectiveness of the Russian role in the world, forced Moscow to reduce its foreign preoccupations in the interest of difficult

domestic and economic problems. Thus, Russia trimmed its responsibilities and commitments inherited from the Soviet era and often appeared as another Western power that attaches greater importance to its own private interests.

Despite this, observers are noticing signs of Russia sliding from the narrow confines of the new role. Hence, the attempts to circumvent this role in Bosnia-Herzegovina and expand its basis in the Middle East. In particular, those attempts were apparent during the Security Council discussions on the issue of international protection for Palestinians following the Hebron massacre, and also through Russian initiatives and proposals in this sphere, which aroused the annoyance of Israel and the West.

Will the slow Russian moves in the Middle East continue in such a way as to deviate from the Western lines drawn for Soviet policy? Such a development requires intense Palestinian and Arab efforts, which do not seem to exist right now. Consequently, Russian moves will remain subject to mere Russian realities on one hand, and the West's political monopolization on the other. This does not herald that a significant change will occur in Russian diplomacy, at least not in the foreseeable future.

Egypt

Mubarak Sends Message to Bucharest Forum

NC2104172794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has emphasized the importance of the great strides Middle Eastern countries have made in economic and social development because this is the sound way to enable them to reap the fruits of peace. These countries should exert intensive efforts to review their forms of economic development. This came in a message President Mubarak addressed to the Bucharest International Forum and read by People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur.

President Mubarak noted that the success of economic cooperation in the Middle East will not be confined within the boundaries of this region but will have a positive impact on the world economy. He said that he does not conceive of such cooperation growing amid the economic contradictions buffeting the region and the discrepancy in the level of development, as well as the difficult economic situation besetting the countries of the region. He added: Therefore, we expect the European countries to play the role of main partner in this cooperation because of the close link between security and prosperity in Europe and stability and peace in the Middle East.

President Mubarak said that the Middle Eastern countries look to the big powers to help them overcome their problems, such as energy, water, infrastructure, and population. He voiced his hope that a comprehensive and fair peace will be achieved to serve as a prelude to eliminating numerous hotbeds of tension in the world. President Mubarak noted the recent political transformations in the Middle east, such as the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, which has had an impact on the whole world.

Mubarak To Visit UAE 23 Apr

NC2104154194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1323 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Apr (MENA)—MENA has learned that President Husni Mubarak will visit the United Arab Emirates at the end of his current visit to the PRC. President Mubarak will arrive in Abu Dhabi Saturday afternoon on a two-day visit.

Envoy to UN Calls For Measures in Bosnia

NC2204070794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Egypt has warned that the UN could lose its credibility in the face of the deteriorating situation in Gorazde. Dr. Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent delegate to the UN, said in a speech to the Security Council last night that the UN has two alternatives. Either to adopt the collective security measures stipulated under the UN Charter to end the existing aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina and force the aggressors to withdraw or lift the military embargo imposed on Bosnia.

Dr. al-'Arabi noted that the Egyptian delegation had repeatedly cautioned the Security Council against the consequences of failure to adopt decisive measures to ensure a firm and decisive remedy of the deteriorating situation in Bosnia. He called on the Security Council members to adopt the immediate and necessary measures to put an end to this tragedy, which cannot be tolerated. Chief among these measures are for the NATO to undertake the immediate military actions needed to lift the siege of Gorazde, force the Serbs to withdraw from the town, back the Bosnia-Herzegovina Government in its legitimate right to self-defense, and lift the military embargo imposed on it, he added.

UN Failure To Intervene in Bosnia Criticized

NC2204070894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0540 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR describes the United Nation's claim that it is afraid its military intervention against the Serbs would lead to a conflagration in other areas of Europe as a feeble excuse to justify its nonintervention.

In its commentary today, the paper denounces the UN Security Council's insistence on not allowing the Bosnian people to obtain weapons to defend their lives, entity, and future, describing it as an ugly crime.

The paper says that the United Nations has left the Serbian gangs to carry out their war against the unarmed Bosnian people without any serious, genuine attempt to put an end to the Serbian aggression, which has been going on for the past two years.

The paper appeals to the states that defend justice to raise the issue at the International Court of Justice after the responsible organizations have abandoned the people and failed to fulfill their sacred duty.

Saudi Trade Minister Visits Cairo

LD2104135294 Riyadh SPA in English 1302 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, April 21, SPA—Saudi Trade Minister Dr. Sulayman al-Salim arrived here Wednesday for an official visit to Egypt. He was greeted at the airport by First Economy and External Trade Undersecretary Dr. Midhat al-Juwayni and the minister plenipotentiary at the Saudi Embassy in Cairo Abu-Bakr Rafi'.

Upon arrival, Dr. al-Salim said he would discuss with Egyptian Economy and External Trade Minister Dr. Mahmud Muhammad Bayumi overcoming hurdles to develop bilateral trade relations in the light of exempting many commodities of custom duties to increase their exchange between the two countries. He said he would also discuss with Dr. Bayumi removing obstacles hampering trade exchange. Pointing to the Saudi participation in the Cairo International Fair, he said the kingdom is keen on participating in this annual fair on both the official and businessmen levels adding that there are many opportunities for trade exchange between the two countries.

Dr. al-Salim said the purpose of participating in the Cairo International Fair is to become acquainted with Egypt's accomplishments in various industries which are beginning to meet the domestic needs and appear in Saudi markets as well. He said another purpose is to display Saudi industrial products for Egyptian visitors of the fair, which provides an opportunity for Egyptian and Saudi businessmen to meet. He toured the Saudi pavilion at the fairand was briefed on the national products on display.

He also visited the Egyptian General Investment Authority pavilion and was briefed on its contents by pavilion supervisors.

Speaking to reporters later in the day, Dr. al-Salim said the volume of trade between the kingdom and Egypt has tripled over the past three years from 400 million to 1,200 million Egyptian pounds. He pointed to the huge Saudi investments in Egypt and stressed that the Egyptian-Saudi joint commission which convenes annually is assigned to remove obstacles hindering the economic cooperation between the two sisterly Arab countries. He applauded Egyptian economic policies and econimc reform measures and gave a brief account of the Saudi economic plans since the early seventies, which depend on the diversification of sources of revenue. He also pointed in this connection to the state's support for the private sector and businessmen and confirmed the importance of removing obstacles hindering the movement of capital and goods among Arab countries, instead of committing themselves to a common market.

New Tensions Between Cairo, Khartoum Reported

NC2204083494 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 15 Apr 94 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] Cairo—Relations between Egypt and Sudan have tensed again following a statement by Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, which Cairo considered harmful to its sovereignty and an intentional offense, and a strong Sudanese protest against a planned conference in Cairo to which rebel leaders from south Sudan have been invited.

An Egyptian Foreign Ministry source told AL-SAFIR that the Sudanese president's statement to the magazine AL-MULTAQA that the Egyptian regime has no clear program concerning the Hala'ib region and that it always seeks to obstruct negotiations with Sudan is unacceptable.

The source quoted al-Bashir as saying that "despite all the Egyptian acts and positions against Khartoum, the option of fighting our Egyptian brothers contradicts our position and policy, which reject the idea of sacred borders. This idea is one aspect of Arab weakness."

Egypt rejected al-Bashir's statement and sent a cable of protest to Khartoum saying it flagrantly harms bilateral relations.

The cable said Sudan always seeks to create tension between the two, whether through words, such as al-Bashir's statement, or deeds, such as appointing a Sudanese governor to Hala'ib and sending "terrorist elements" to the disputed region.

The cable also considered al-Bashir's statement a violation of the unsigned agreement reached with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo. The agreement says differences should not be discussed through the media.

Egypt's refusal to stop a conference on minorities in the Arab world, which the Ibn-Khuldun Center for Political Studies intends to organize in Cairo, added to the tension. Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih on Tuesday asked that the conference be prevented from taking place because rebel leaders from south Sudan, including John Garang and Rick Mashar, are scheduled to attend.

Diplomatic sources in Cairo said that on Wednesday, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa sent a verbal message to his Sudanese counterpart telling him that Cairo rejects the request. He explained that the issue hinges on freedom of political and intellectual activity in

Egypt and is part of free decisionmaking. No individual or state has a right to interfere in the sovereignty of another country, he said.

The sources cited Musa as saying that Egypt is a politically open country and that the south Sudanese rebel leaders were invited in their capacity as Sudanese citizens. The aim was not to entrench separatism. Cairo's firm and principled position against any attempt to divide Sudan is well known, Musa said.

AL-SAFIR learned that Khartoum may react by organizing its own conference. Egyptian political sources expect such a conference to include some Islamist leaders, something over which Cairo will not remain silent. [passage omitted]

Security Services Investigating Leaks to al-Jihad Group

NC2104162794 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Najwa 'Abd-al-'Aziz]

[Text] Security authorities and some diplomatic quarters are conducting extensive investigations into how the names, posts, and movements of some foreign diplomats were leaked to the extremist al-Jihad organization members who were recently arrested. Interpol is also participating in these investigations.

The security authorities seized a list of the diplomats targeted for assassination along with the members of the extremist group, which was led by 'Adil 'Awad, who was killed in the al-Munib battle on 14 April.

The extremists confessed to receiving instructions from their leadership abroad to assassinate the foreign diplomats, especially Americans and Israelis.

The security authorities also discovered the underground "cells," which the organization's members had prepared in al-Qattamiyah and Bilbays to kidnap the diplomats and detain them there.

An investigation is underway on how the detainees identified the persons mentioned in the assassination list, which was seized in one of the organization's hideouts. The investigation authorities held face-to-face confrontations with the eight defendants.

Shaykh Denies BBC Report on Antigovernment Acts

NC2204083394 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 18 Apr 94 p 13

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali has denied a BBC report attributed to him on the morning of 8 April that he is engaged in hostile acts against the Egyptian Government.

Shaykh al-Ghazali told ROSE AL-YUSUF that the BBC cited an interview with him conducted by a British journalist from THE GUARDIAN. There was a mistake in the translation, he said.

AL-GHAZALI stressed that the report is unfounded. He said he is serving the heritage and message of Islam within the limits of public order. He said he never thought of violating the state's general law.

Ten Foreigners Executed for Drug Trafficking

NC2104200894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—Ten convicts of various nationalities—four Sudanese, two Bangladeshis, one Somali, one Indian, one Tanzanian, and one Kenyan—charged with drug trafficking and smuggling into Egypt were executed today.

The Court of Cassation upheld the verdicts to execute these convicts in February and President Husni Mubarak endorsed them. Justice Minister Counselor Faruq Sayf-al-Nasr stated that this is the first time so many convicts in drug trafficking have been executed at one time.

Libya

Tarhunah Chemical Weapons Plant Described

BR2104134594 Milan PANORAMA in Italian 16 Apr 94 pp 107-109

[Report by Silvia Aloisi: "Al-Qadhdhafi's Secret Weapon"—all Libyan place names as published]

[Text] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's deadly secret is hidden in the sandy desert, at Tarhunah, 65 kilometers southeast of Tripoli. It is here that the Libyan leader is having an enormous installation built for the production of chemical weapons, thus complementing the existing production plant at Rabta.

For years the U.S. secret service had suspected al-Qadhdhafi of planning to build a second chemical plant. Rabta technological center's Pharma-150 plant was detected by the Pentagon in 1988, thanks to photographs taken by the Keyhole satellite. It was immediately defined as "the greatest chemical weapon production plant in the Third World. It was pointless for Tripoli's colonel to deny the facts and say th at the plant was only a harmless "pharmaceuticals factory." First Ronald Reagan and later George Bush repeatedly threatened to bomb the plant unless al-Qadhdhafi agreed to an international inspection. The use of force, however, proved unnecessary, since in March 1990 the Rabta plant was half- destroyed by a mysterious fire, which the Libyan authorities attributed to Western-instigated sabotage.

The Tripoli government has not forgotten American threats nor, above all, the allied bombing of Iraqi military installations during the Gulf War and, subsequently, in 1993. Al-Qadhdhafi's decision to have the suspect plant and materials transported to a new secret site was therefore predictable. This, in fact, would enable him to open the doors of the entirely rebuilt Rabta plant to UN inspectors, as a sign of goodwill toward the West.

The construction of the new Tarhunah plant was entrusted to the Jowfe state-owned enterprise, a bogus company which was set up to purchase the necessary equipment for building the plant and manufacturing poison gas. The plant, which is scheduled to become operational by 1995, will be capable of producing mustard gas at the rate of 1,000 metric tons a year, Sarin gas (90 metric tons), and Soman gas (1,300 metric tons). All of these substances are highly toxic to human beings: A small drop is enough to kill an individual within a few minutes.

Suspicions concerning Tripoli's intentions were aroused by the discovery, in England, of a Jowfe purchase order for two chemical production installations. The contract, worth half a million pounds sterling (approximately 1.2 billion lire), had been awarded to the Multinational Engineering Group company, which is part of the British APV company. The deal was camouflaged by means of a three-way operation: Jowfe contacted APV's Malaysian subsidiary APV Hills and Hills, which passed on the order to its parent company in London. In addition to the equipment, the order included materials for gas production and, in particular, pinacolone alcohol, the basic component for the production of Soman nerve gas.

Other toxic substances were supplied to Jowfe by the Belgian company Hassco, based in Ostend. Among them, ethylene oxide, used for manufacturing mustard gas and incendiary bombs, and dimethylamine, a component of Tabun nerve gas. It is difficult, however, to draw up precise accusations since many toxic products used for chemical weapons are commonly used as fertilizers or pesticides, and are therefore not included in the international list of "risk" substances whose export is forbidden. Ethylene oxide, for example, is used for the production of industrial resins and detergents.

However, the nature of the Tarhunah plant, which is officially presented as a petrochemical complex, also seems to be confirmed by the type of materials bought for its construction. Libya is currently subjected to an international embargo because of its involvement in the 1988 terrorist action against a Pan Am Boeing 747 over Lockerbie. Tripoli is refusing to extradite the two Libyan agents who are suspected of having planted the bomb in the airliner. However, getting round the UN embargo was easy: In fact, the Jowfe company obtained—from Switzerland—the technical specifications for the construction of parallel underground tunnels, 150 meters long, designed by the Sauer engineering company of Salzburg (Austria). This type of tunnel is commonly used in other secret military installations. Furthermore, Libya purchased chemical weapon production equipment whose internal components are covered with enamel or teflon—materials that are extremely resistant to corrosive toxic substances. A sophisticated Swiss air-purification plant—protected by special fire-resistant materials—and a computerized system enabling instruments to function automatically are considered further evidence for the military intended use of the Tarhunah complex.

Libya did not subscribe to the international convention against the proliferation of chemical weapons, which was signed in Paris in January 1993, and it has always refused to have its chemical installations open to international inspection. The Tripoli government supports the position taken by the majority of Arab League countries, which make their possible adhesion to the convention conditional upon international inspection of Israel's secret nuclear installations. In fact, chemical weapons are considered the Arab countries' response to the Jewish state's nuclear potential.

The discovery of the Tarhunah plant may trigger off a new crisis between Tripoli's colonel and the West. The Libyan Government is already facing trouble on its internal front, following the violent anti-regime revolt which broke out last March in the small town of Bani Walid—although al-Qadhdhafi's personal power does not seem to be seriously called into question. The colonel survived the administrations of his long-standing enemies, Reagan and Bush. But Bill Clinton may well decide that the moment has come to resume the hostilities.

Morocco

Article Examines Country's Fundamentalist Movement

NC2104203894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Apr 94 p 7

[Article by Ma'an Mukhawwal: "Why the Fundamentalist Movement is Weak in Morocco"]

[Text] The bloody events in Algeria have added other things to Morocco's concerns, such as the possible spread of the conflict to this country. Morocco's official stance has ranged from caution to semi-silence, avoiding any involvement in the conflict. This is in contrast to the stances of the Moroccan political parties. Some of these parties, such as the Independence Party, support the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] while others, such as the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, support the Algerian Government.

Undoubtedly, the fundamentalist movement began to grow in a serious manner in the sixties and mid-seventies. This does not mean that the Moroccan parties did not contain Islamic factions. On the contrary, these Islamic factions were able to make their words heard within their own parties, such as the faction of Shaykh Mohamed Ben-al-'Arabi al-'Alawi in the National Union

of Popular Forces and the faction of Habib Farkani in the Socialist Union of Popular Forces.

The religious issue spawned by the growth of the fundamentalist movement is influenced by a number of pressing factors that come from the very core of society. These factors have diminished the political Islamic groups' ability for movement, maneuvering, preaching, and guidance. Although Morocco, like other Islamic and Arab states, is experiencing a conflict between two kinds of logic that barely coexist—the logic of the state and the logic of the Islamic call—it has sought from the outset to use the call to serve the state. It has not done this in a crude way but has made the call one of the factors for building the state.

The state opened a number of channels through which it sought to control the call's course by controlling the scholars, who were the main activists. It supervised their work, guided them, and put them under surveillance. The state established the "Dar al-Hadith al- Hasaniyah" in 1964 and entrusted it with taking care of higher Islamic studies, which specialize in the science of the Koran and Sunna [body of Islamic custom and practice based on Prophet Muhammad's words and deeds]. The political authority's success in containing the call and controlling its work has enabled it to undermine competing and undesirable channels. The Scholars Authority was merged into the civil service. If the Friday preachers violated the directives of the Ministry of Awqaf, the latter would prevent them and even dismiss them if necessary. The scholars' role was confined to protecting the unity of the nation on the level of religion and creed.

King Hassan II said: I am afraid for Islam from the Muslims. He adds: There is no exaggeration, no excessiveness, and no bigotry in religion. No one is a custodian of others. No one must dictate to others behavior, ethics, and daily activities of society.

In the seventies Morocco witnessed extremist leftist currents that tried the course of political violence but failed. In the eighties Islamic extremist groups such as "Fasil al-Jihad" and "Katibat Badr" tried to adopt a strategy of violence to bring about political change. The security authorities, however, succeeded in dismantling them and convicting their members in 1984 and 1985. Not only did fundamentalism in Morocco fail in its armed violence but the call also did not receive an attentive ear for several reasons:

1. The longevity of the monarchy in Morocco, which dates to the eighth century when Idris Bin-'Abdallah sought refuge in Morocco after his escape from a massacre during the 'Abbasid era. The Aurbah tribe gave him refuge, honored him, and established ties of marriage with him. This tribe and others chose him as king and recognized his only son, Idris II, as his successor.

In 1809 [as published] Idris II founded Fes and made it his capital. With time, and thanks to the efforts of the 'Alawite kings, it became one of the most important centers of Islam. It is no coincidence that the monarchy in Morocco is popular and Islamic. If it were not for the congruity between monarchy and Islam, we would not be able to speak about a Moroccan nation that has its prerequisites and unity. King Hassan has maintained harmony among the people and has achieved and upheld the country's unity despite the existence of multiple tribes and divergent views. The state's sole authority controlled the remote areas and the interior of the country in a secure, legislative, and economic unity encompassing shepherds, farmers, merchants, and sailors.

2. The Salafiyah [early 20th century movement led by reformers wishing to reconcile Muslim traditions with modern life and justify Muslim tenets through rational arguments] is the backdrop of the Moroccan nationalist movement. Since it took shape in the early thirties, the nationalist movement in Morocco leaned heavily on Islam in its fight against the protectorate [French] authorities. Thanks to its great pioneer, Alal el-Fassi, the national movement maintained a healthy Islamic attitude, dismissing dogmatic ideas, and denouncing misguided practices.

The Salafiyah played an important role in the resistance against protectorate powers. The national movement did all it could to join forces with other groups involved in resisting the occupation, including mystic schools and Sufi [Muslim esoteric societies usually featuring a guru, initiation rites, and claims of psychic powers] movements. All differences were set aside in the common cause of achieving reform and liberation.

Thus, all the above-mentioned groups joined in one movement whose aim was Moroccan nationalism: liberation and independence. Mystic traditions blended with the desire for reform, creating a sense of flexibility and a clarity of goal that greatly suited the simple tenets of Moroccan Sufism.

3. The civic code. A collection of laws regulating family relations was passed under the aegis of political authorities wishing to combine Islamic tenets, traditions, and the teachings of Imam Malik [early Muslim legislator] in one body of laws. A committee of ulema, judges, and legal experts were put to work and finally produced a civic code reminiscent of that of Tunisia. In many instances, the code recognizes equality between men and women.

Despite widespread liberalism in Morocco, there is a certain balance between liberalism and Islamic values. Social freedoms steer clear of Muslim sensibilities. The port city of Sale, for instance, boasts many sidewalk cafes, busy with customers whiling away the time in the winter sun, but not one liquor shop.

Morocco may be a Third World country that needs assistance, but neither its government nor its people are destitute. Its agricultural reform plan was a dazzling success. Morocco has met its international financial obligations, reinforcing confidence in its future.

Morocco does not only enjoy political and economic stability, it also has political parties with a Salafi penchant. These parties are always trying to win over the Islamic tide. These efforts have robbed the fundamentalists of much of their lure and have diminished their political appeal.

The fundamentalists have no grassroots support among the working classes or any presence to speak of in the countryside. Their activists work exclusively in big cities and among students.

The Moroccans are open minded and moderate by nature. They see no contradiction between going to the mosque and adopting modern ways. The Moroccan family acts as a safety valve, for it greatly influences the cultural and professional lives of its members. Family bonds are stronger than political ones in that country.

For all the above reasons, Moroccan fundamentalism has been unable to "strike back" and claim an exclusive mandate in matters of faith. Its field of action is confined to things political, which puts it in direct competition with other parties. Its appeal is ineffective and its record unimpressive. For lack of a better cause, Shaykh Abdessalam Yassine, a top fundamentalist preacher, advocates a brand of Sufism "that cannot be learned by study and earnest reading" or be found between the covers of a book.

Morocco is a country with challenges on its mind. Shaykh Yassine's other-worldly appeal is no help in facing these challenges.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Receives Message From Iraqi President

EA2104223994 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has received a personal message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn concerning developments in the UN Security Council on the question of lifting the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq.

This was announced by Iraqi Information Minister Yusuf Hammadi, who delivered the message to Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, at a news conference held this evening at the Hilton Hotel.

The Iraqi minister, who is currently visiting the country, added that he discussed with Lt. Gen. al-Bashir the possibility of cooperation between the friendly and brotherly states to achieve the lifting of the blockade. Mr. Hammadi commended Sudan's stand of solidarity with Iraq. He pointed out that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir had assured him that the unjust blockade was not aimed at Iraq only, but at the growth of Arab strength and its confrontation with colonialists. It also aimed to exhaust the resources of the Arab nation.

Mr. Hammadi added that his meeting with Lt. Gen. al-Bashir dealt with ways of strengthening brotherly relations between the two countries.

Concerning the UN Security Council's position on lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq, Mr. Hammadi explained that the stand adopted by the UN Security Council differed from what it had held in the past, and that this was because a split had occurred in the viewpoints of the permanent member states. France, Russia, and China were in favor of lifting the blockade against Iraq, whereas United States and Britain were not. On Gulf-Iraqi relations, Mr. Hammadi affirmed a positive trend in his country's relations with Oman, Qatar and Bahrain.

Iraqi Minister Departs

JN2104153994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, the special envoy of President leader Saddam Husayn and Iraqi minister of culture and information, left Khartoum this morning after a one-day visit to Sudan. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

President Threatens War in 3 Months If No Referendum

LD2104194594 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Self-determination for the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara made the news again today in Madrid as the terms of the never-met requests of Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] were formulated again.

Three years after the agreement for a referendum was reached at the United Nations, the Sahraoui organization highlights the Moroccan trick of carrying out the referendum with an electoral role twice as long as the one established by Spain. Over to our reporter Maria Jose Castejon:

[Castejon] The hope for peace in the Western Sahara that began three years ago could well boil down to nothing. The former Spanish colony is once again threatened by war if the block on the self-determination referendum is not lifted within the next three months. In this race against the clock, a movement formed by European municipalities, parliamentarians, and other nongovernmental organizations, has held a conference in Madrid to raise awareness and to put pressure on the United Nations so that Morocco abandons its stubborn position that it has maintained over the last few years.

One of the speakers, Odon Elorza, the mayor of San Sebastian, believes that the international community should be held responsible if war flares up again in the Sahara. [indistinct passage omitted]

[Castejon] Mohamed Abelaziz, the president of the Sahara Arab Democratic Republic, who is also head of the Polisario, is at the conference. Despite the threat of war, he never stops talking about hope. Abelaziz has asked Spain to play a more active role because it is well aware of what is happening in the Western Sahara.

He wants the electoral role drawn up by the Spaniards in 1974 to be respected. Its use as the basis for the referendum is the main claim of the Polisario. Abelaziz says that the UN secretary general's proposal to add to the electoral role is unacceptable because it would mean giving Morocco a free hand in turning the referendum into a joke by adding hundreds of thousands of voters who are not from the Sahara to the role.

Polisario Leader Comments

LD2204095794 (Clandestine) National Radio of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Brother Mohamed Abdelaziz, secretary general of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] and president of the state, held a news conference on the sidelines of the international seminar attended by international and Spanish media [words indistinct]

The brother president gave a detailed review of the latest developments of our people's cause and the dangers threatening the peace process in the Western Sahara. Replying to reporters' questions, the president expressed the readiness of the Popular Front to continue consultations and peace efforts to implement the UN peace plan [words indistinct]. He made clear that a unilateral [words indistinct] would spark the fire of war in the region, a war the scope and repercussions of which nobody can predict.

The brother president affirmed that the seminar will provide the opportunity to address a call to the United Nations to [word indistinct] of the Western Sahara peace plan which might increase the intransigence of the Moroccan side. The brother president stressed the importance of this seminar, which includes delegations from Europe, Asia, and Africa. [words indistinct]

Brother Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the state and secretary general of the front, explained that the convening of an international seminar such as this in Madrid after over a century since the occupation of the Western Sahara [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Commander Says Implementing Accord Could End Crisis

JN2104123094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0924 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Sanaa, 21 Apr (INA)—A prominent Yemeni commander has said that implementing the Yemeni document of pledge and accord and withdrawing the military units from the previous areas of partition is the way to end the current Yemeni crisis.

In statements published by the newspaper 26 SEPTEMBER, mouthpiece of the Yemeni Armed Forces, today, Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Malik (al-Sabati), Yemeni chief of staff, revealed that a military plan is being prepared which contains numerous measures to withdraw the military forces to new strategic areas in six Yemeni governorates. He added that this plan aims to remove military tension and keep the military units away from the previous areas of partition.

Basindwa Denies Diplomatic 'Reshuffle' Aimed at YSP

PM2104091494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Apr 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "In Message From Yemeni Foreign Ministry to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Sanaa Denies Bias Against Socialist Party Diplomats"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah has denied a reshuffle of staff—in particular southern Yemeni diplomats and those who have close links with the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP].

He expressed his regret that "some people should exploit the crisis Yemen is experiencing to distort facts and level false accusations at others."

In a statement AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT received from a Yemeni Foreign Ministry official, Basindwah said that "with regard to the ministry's delay in sending financial allowances to the embassies, this delay is not limited to certain embassies. It affects all embassies."

This came as a reply to accusations made by some Yemeni sources regarding a diplomatic reshuffle aimed at recalling to Yemen YSP diplomats or those close to the YSP, and the Foreign Ministry's deliberate delay in sending financial allowances to the embassies where they work.

The foreign minister attributed the delay in sending these allowances to "the Central Bank's inability to secure the sums decided in hard currency on the specified dates." [passage omitted]

Saddam Address Marks Al-Faw Anniversary

JN2204072894 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 18 Apr 94 p 3

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn marking the "liberation" of al-Faw Peninsula during the war with Iran; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Many happy returns on this al-Faw anniversary, and on other occasions and victories, God willing, for you, your people, your families.

This is life. It is difficult in terms of its changes and circumstances. It is exactly like two pictures of two meetings. The first was when the Iranians occupied al-Faw and the second is now. We might add a third meeting that came after al-Faw liberation. When we view life in terms of these three pictures, we will clearly see the meaning of the results, based on difficult circumstances, or the difficult changes in the difficult march. The history of individuals is the same. In their history, people may rise, fall, or succeed, based on basic factors, the most important of which are will and wisdom. What choice will his resolve and what he thinks is right lead him to? Which of the choices drawn in the sands, in military terms, is suitable or is required by the results that are based, or should be based on it?

This is the situation. Peoples and nations pass through periods of forgetfulness or weakness due to this forgetfulness. Thus, opportunities pass before them in the figurative, or theoretical sense, but they do not come to grips with these opportunities. Naturally, such a situation will not enable them to create opportunities. If opportunities are passing in front of them and they do not grab them, then it would be more appropriate to say that they are unable to create opportunities.

Other peoples, in other circumstances, for other reasons, in other conditions, create opportunities, come to grips with them, and develop them to their end results [ma'alah].

This also applies to life, the life of man in times of war, and even during peace time. But, of course, the war times are more difficult.

Let us take the two pictures: The news received that the enemy had occupied al-Faw, and the picture of summoning the commanders and discussing al-Faw's liberation, whether in the bilateral meeting with the commanders of the III and VII Army Corps, or in the General Command meeting after the comrades had arrived from the north at the time—the late General 'Adnan Khayrallah and his comrades. If we take these three pictures, or two pictures, and ask each one about his impressions of the first, second, and third pictures, we will be able to draw correct conclusions about the correct stand at difficult circumstances, about correct inferences in difficult times, about the ability to remain levelheaded at difficult times. The difficult circumstances are relative and they come at war time. They affect different individuals in different ways; there are degrees. We find them also at times of peace. However, they manifest themselves in a relative manner in what an individual regards as pressure on his powers and resources, his will, or his ability to crystallize a stand at a given time.

Al-Faw's lessons are numerous. In every angle, we have more than one lesson. We have seen in people pictures inspired in us by the three meetings we mentioned about al-Faw. Some said al-Faw was lost and would never return, but some were convinced that it would return. The enemies were eager to emphasize a factor that is not characteristic of Arabs, but was forced upon them, namely, that territory taken from the Arabs does not return, that Arab armies have no spirit for counterattack or for returning to attack in better circumstances to liberate territory. Zionism was working in this direction in all its activities and with all its resources and influence, not only inside the occupied territory in beloved Palestine but wherever Zionism existed in the world as well.

You are also aware of the skepticism, circumstances, and obstacles that attempted to hinder the will of the Arab combat troops as they launched their offensive against the occupying Zionist entity on the Golan and Suez fronts. Therefore, there is no absolute framework for what is possible and what is not possible. In all cases, when factors of direct impact are taken into account, we must consider willpower to be of paramount importance.

Let us first determine what is it that you deem possible or not possible. Do you just view things as possible or not possible? What have you done to make the impossible possible? I am not referring to what you should do just technically, but also to what you should do spiritually, mentally, and humanly in your relations with your own selves and with others. When we come into live interaction with all those factors, then the impossible becomes a question of relativity, either awaiting other factors to ripen as a result of a programmed, intentional action, or the emergence of other factors that are unavailable at that particular point of time. However, with effort and willpower, other factors can be made available. Then, the impossible can become possible.

When we recall the liberation of al-Faw, which is rightly described as the land of sacrifice and the gate of the great victory, then you will be able to associate every example we have cited with your memories of that battle: The psychological situation under certain circumstances, and how it turned under a different situation, different circumstances, and in view of other possibilities.

For the first time, an Arab territory was restored from foreign troops, except for the battles of liberation against the past traditional colonialists. Those liberation battles were different. But, the liberation of al-Faw was the first time in modern Arab history that an Arab state liberated its usurped territory from another state without political bargains and without half-way measures.

Was the mastermind of the al-Faw liberation deluded, as some said? Did you hire foreign armies? Did you hire or seek the assistance of foreign brains? The answer to all those questions is clear.

Hence, we can say that no army, in a long war, can claim that the opposite army, under all circumstances, is unable to achieve successes on certain fronts. This is because it is always possible for an army's superiority to be affected by other factors. Such factors, under certain difficult circumstances and perhaps lack of alertness, can revert to the interest of the enemy.

Therefore, under difficult circumstances, commanders should not belittle any field action, combat front, or move, no matter how small. This is because it is possible that these small moves and steps will add up to the final result. However, all these factors must not make the commander forget that the final and strategic result must be in his interest. This should be the basis for dealing with all details on the front. In this sense, the front does not have to be exclusively understood as a military front. It can be extended to include other domains of life, such as politics, economics, and social and security affairs. However, this applies more to the front in the military sense of the word.

What matters is the final result. Commanders may win a certain battle, but their final goal should be to win the war.

The other lesson is that it is unfair to say that Arabs are unable to restore their territory. They are capable of doing so—mentally, emotionally, and psychologically. More aptly, this applies to the Iraqis, both Arabs and non-Arabs, for they have deep roots in the Arab nation's ancient cultural heritage and history.

The Arab nation is deep-rooted, and so are the Iraqi people. I don't mean deep-rooted in the sense of being ancient. I am speaking about virtuous traits being handed down from one generation to the next. It is natural that Iraq's patriotism be as deep as its history is long. I am not saying it is deeper than others' patriotism, because I am not into drawing comparisons here, except if others claim their patriotism is deeper than that of the Iraqis. To these we would say no. As is known, and as we always say, in human terms, each Iraqi is equal to any other human being. An Iraqi is equal to an Asian, African, European, American, or Australian. However, if anyone should say that an individual of his country equals two Iraqis, we would say no to him. For us, an Iraqi is equal to 10. If he should say that his country's area is greater than that of Iraq and so claim the right of attacking us, we would say no to him. Iraq is four times the size of your country, and our 20 million people are superior to your people. I am not talking about people in the abstract sense of the word, because we do not differentiate between peoples. What I mean to say is that Iraqis are above drawing such comparisons. Even if one belonging to a nation of 1 billion people were to boast about it, we would tell him that our people number that many. However, in view of our judging things from a principled standpoint, we view the human value of an Iraqi as being equal to that of, say, a Ugandan. One is judged better or worse by action and thought.

Iraqis and Arabs have been judged unfairly when it was said that once they lost territory they were unable to retrieve it. However, al-Faw marked the beginning—the resounding and undoubted start. There was a contest of wills there; one of them prevailed and the result was the liberation of a city without politics or any outside factors coming into play. Victories then followed in rapid succession. The goal was to take back every inch of territory that had been captured by aggressors. Eventually all lost territory was taken back and the will of aggression was crushed. The aggressors admitted in a written message that they had been vanquished and wished they would not have been alive to witness that moment on the front.

That is how things turned out. I am not being boastful or arrogant. God forbid. I am saying this to underline the inherited positive traits of the Iraqi people—traits that react to the deep-rootedness of the Arabs in spiritual and civilized terms.

In Iraqi folklore, it is said that a true horseman will not lose his camel. The al-Faw story is now well known to all Iraqis. The Iraqis experienced al-Faw when it was taken away from them and then when it was restored. They picture the commanders who joined the battle to liberate it. Some of you witnessed the occupation and the liberation of al-Faw. Others in this great army and your comrades in arms went through the same experience. The entire picture may not have been shown on television screens as clearly as you experienced it firsthand. A fighter may encounter circumstances in which he laughs and broods alternately. At times, he may be utterly depressed; at other times, he may feel on top of the world. These two states of mind may be experienced in the span of just of one hour, half an hour, a quarter of an hour, or even 10 or five minutes, marking the interval between a telephone call and another from the command to his position. However, the time between the telephone call which he viewed as upsetting and the one which he viewed as comforting is measured by his capacity to grasp the reasons why the first call was upsetting and the second cheering. The length of the telephone conversation should be measured by the extent of his determination to turn the annoying state into a comforting one. One cannot instill faith in others unless one is faithful oneself, and a commander cannot possibly influence his companions unless he can influence himself first. What I mean to say is that to the extent that one is self-assured, one can effect a breakthrough, achieve victory, bring about a good outcome, and ward off evil with sheer willpower.

Therefore, if we look at the al-Faw battle from a military perspective, we can learn several lessons. We can also go in depth into the political, social, and psychological aspects of this.

When we talk about prosperity, I note that all people want to become prosperous. History, however, does not deal with the manifestations of prosperity sought by weak people, but deals with prosperous work in a certain era. Work, in accordance with the Arab and Islamic concept, means jihad. They do not say how many discotheques were built in Baghdad at a certain time, and nobody says how many dresses Zubaydah, wife of Harun al-Rashid [caliph of Baghdad between 786-809], had. However, they all proudly remember how she warned

Harun al-Rashid against al-Baramikah [an influential family which sought to overthrow Harun al-Rashid].

The storehouses of the Muslims in the early age were not full of rice or vegetable oil, but they are still remembered with longing for that time. The are still remembered by all people—rich and poor, full and starving. The humanity of the satiated is dead while the stomach of the starving is dead. The man with a dead stomach, however, is better than a man without humanity.

When we say that wellbeing is coming we first mean wellbeing of the soul. We believe that wellbeing is coming. We believe and know that our comrades and brothers in responsibility believe that wellbeing is coming. We believe and know that the leadership in Iraq is capable of effecting changes in the overall situation if the pressure increases and the situation becomes vulnerable. If such a thing were to happen, the leadership would also be capable of introducing new factors into the picture, factors that could absorb any additional elements that might be brought into play by the enemy.

Therefore, wellbeing is coming. Wellbeing is coming not because the evil ones intend to lift the evil, but because we know that the fist that seizes the sword by its blade will be forced to ease the grip when the owner of the sword pulls the sword forcefully. The enemies of Iraq are like a man seizing the sword with its blade and when the owner of the sword pulls the sword forcefully, the adversary will find himself compelled to either release his grip around the sword or risk losing his fingers. In either case, he will have to release the sword.

We created a scandal for the enemies of mankind, the likes of which have never been seen before. We exposed their lies, deception, and weakness. Their weakness dominates their power because their weakness is ethical, spiritual, and human while their strength is based on technology. You saw what technology did three days ago? Is this not technological superiority—AWACS planes flying all the time, and fixed radars with two planes on their monitors? What did they do? Two of their fighter planes hit these two aircraft. You saw the premeditated goal. Some suspect radio stations and press statements immediately claimed that Iraqi fighter planes had downed the two U.S. helicopters.

It is likely that if it were not for the fact that there were other nationals besides the Americans on the planes and the fear that the joint inquiry would bring out the facts, they would have taken the media allegations as grounds to level charges against Iraq as they have done in the past and continue to do now.

I heard young people around me saying that they hope something evil will happen to the aggressors. I say to them that whatever you expect or imagine, you cannot concoct what Almighty God concocts for the evil ones and infidels. Almighty God has something planned that will teach a lesson to all mankind, not just the two parties directly involved in this thing.

After I heard about this incident, I was briefed on a memorandum from the Foreign Ministry. They summoned our ambassador there in New York. He was summoned by the three countries that are in charge of the so-called safehaven in the Autonomous Region. They summoned our ambassador and told him: We hope there will be no confrontation and we do not intend a confrontation or provocation. He asked: What is the subject of this meeting then? They said: We want to deploy patrols or a patrol from the coordination committee. But what is this coordination committee? It was a temporary committee formed at their request when their armies deployed in northern Iraq in order to avoid confrontation. They said: We will deploy a patrol on Zakho-Fa'idah highway. He asked: What is the purpose of this patrol? What was in the two planes? Who were inside the two planes? What are they going to do?

When I read the cable, I then reviewed the incident, and I noted that they summoned the ambassador on 14 April and the two planes were downed on 14 April. Therefore, the ambassadors summoned our ambassador pursuant to the instructions of their governments to time an evil act or behavior which we will find out. What is the relationship of this with those who were on board the planes?

These are their practices. They carry out small actions, but Iraq is greater than these practices. They still do not understand what Iraq is because they understand the language of figures. They know how many tanks, planes, and fighters are left in Iraq, and how Iraq's economy is doing.

In 1968, Iraq's treasury was almost empty, and there was extreme poverty, but there was a deep-rooted army with a deep-rooted history. But, when we came to power in 1968, this army was small and consisted of only five divisions. How many division did we have after the Iran-Iraq war ended in a great victory? We had 87 divisions. It is man's will that builds divisions and operates the economy. Had not we the same oil which we have now? Yes, but the Iraqis were then starving. We hear now that some Iraqis speak about lacking certain items, but I say that the conditions of 90 percent of the Iraqis now under the siege is much better than their previous conditions, which they talk of now, except for meat and some vegetables.

Most of those who are talking the most, particularly those who became weak in face of the will of foreigners, are the ones who made a fortune in those extraordinary circumstances—circumstances of siege and war after the revolution of 1968. These people are not doing so under the revolution's protection. However, we see that these people, whose number is not large, are impatient. What is needed is that their neighbors should ask them to be patient as much as they have reaped profits. They should remind them of the damaged furniture they had when they moved from their previous place and settled near them. They should remind them of the good furniture they have now. They should urge them to be patient and to have a good solid attitude, much same as the furniture

they have in their houses. They should remember their poverty and be patient, and remember that the revolution was what brought them the lifestyle they have enjoyed. These people are few, and it is our responsibility to advise them because we want them good, we do not hate anyone and we should not hate anyone. We should feel sympathy even for the ones who are executed under the law. This does not mean that we should pardon them to continue their evil deeds, but it means that if this Iraqi citizen been good, it would have been better for us, for his country, and his people.

Their neighbors should talk to these few people and urge them to be patient. I am saying that the ones who have endured the most are those who have a limited income; namely, the genuine citizens of Baghdad. I am commending them because they deserve to be commended. But the ones who came from outside Baghdad and became wealthy after they had been poor will have little patience. On the contrary, we see that the patience of a genuine citizen of Baghdad—who lives adjacent to these people and who used to cook meat four times a week—is greater than that of some of these formerly poor men, who may have once been so poor that they only ate meat when their father died. Sometimes, these formerly poor men could only afford to recite the opening verses of the Koran when their father died if their neighbors helped them.

This is not a shame. A shame, however, is when the formerly poor man does not recall this, thus losing his national memory. This is because such a man will lose his ethics if he does not realize that he is duty-bound to recall the past, so that he can talk to his children and teach them. The children of those whom I am taking about now regard themselves as if they were the children of al- Jalabi [a famous wealthy Iraqi]. Thus, they grumble, do not like anything, do not eat simple meals, and are not ready to put on simple clothes. Therefore, they need tough advice. You should laud both the genuine citizens of Baghdad and their position because their situation is very hard. I know these people. Their position, however, is more pure and genuine than that of all the people who came to Baghdad from other governorates.

Did you see the woman from al-Kazimiyah on television recently? She said she has three sons who fought in the Iran-Iraq war. Did you notice that she proudly talked about her sons' history? Did you notice how she is living with her old husband in a small house, with an area of 75 square meters, along with two married sons, their children, and her third son? Did you notice that her words stemmed from conviction, and how they made eight soaps out of one soap after adding some sugar and water, and that they all eat from the same cooking pot, and how they are living. She talked in a way that suggested honesty and sincerity to the viewer. The viewer felt that this woman was telling the truth. She invited a television photographer, who was on her way to work, to drink tea in her home, and that is why she talked to you on television.

God willing, after a decisive and final victory is achieved—and victory is being achieved now, God willing—these ones will take pride in every detail of their position. We do not want to deprive any Iraqi of proudly recalling his circumstances under the blockade and explaining them to his children and later to his grandchildren. Do you not recall al-Faw in 1986? That's alright. Do you not recall al-Faw in 1988? Are they not two contradictory pictures? We are now inheriting all the glories and positions of the martyrs of al-Faw in 1986 and 1988 and with the same pride. Did you not feel agonized when you recall our martyrs in al-Faw? Here, I am saying that agony still exists in its principled, spiritual, and humanitarian sense. In other words, we wish we had not shed a single drop of Iraqi blood. This, however, is a law which is as old as the times of Adam. This law means that anything of value requires a corresponding sacrifice. However, when we recall the martyrs now we also recall all the noble meanings of liberation. All our martyrs contributed to liberation, whether those who fell in 1986 or 1988. May God have much mercy on them, God willing. We also take pride in the martyrs' families and in their positions. We thank the state, the homeland, and the enduring families of martyrs. May God salute the men, the martyrs, your army, your families, and you.

'Aziz Addresses Rights Symposium, Criticizes Embargo

JN2104165694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 21 Apr (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has said human rights are being abused by certain governments for political purposes to further their own interests.

'Aziz's remarks were made at the third session of the Baghdad International Symposium on human and women's rights and ways to cope with challenges. He said the sanctions targeting the women, children, and the elderly of Iraq amount to a gross violation of human rights. The sanctions, he pointed out, were passed as a political decision by George Bush under known circumstances, and under U.S. control of the United Nations and the UN Security Council.

'Aziz reviewed the advances Iraq made in the seventies in the areas of education, health, and social welfare for women and children. He emphasized that these advances can be supported by statistics and international agencies and were achieved despite the iniquitous embargo that has covered all aspects of life.

The deputy prime minister called for a rethink of the sanctions resolutions that deprive an entire people of food and medicine and restrict international trade. [passage omitted]

Talabani on Paris Talks, Kurdistan Conditions

JN2104191694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1722 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by George Nawfal in Paris on 21 April—recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] The first question is on your intensive talks in France with French officials. Have you come out with encouraging results?

[Talabani] My meetings with French officials have been successful, fruitful, and encouraging. We met with Defense Minister Francois Leotard and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and discussed with them issued of interest to Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan. The results in my view were very positive.

[Nawfal] Have you won practical support?

[Talabani] Yes, we realized definite and clear things. For instance, Leotard emphasized France's continuing contribution to the forces that are protecting the people of Iraqi Kurdistan and pledged to continue offering humanitarian, economic aid to the Iraqi Kurdistan region.

As for Alain Juppe, he emphasized to us France's clear and firm policy toward the Kurdish people and the need to give them their political and democratic rights within unified Iraq. As you are aware, France, like us in the Iraqi Kurdistan Front, opposes partitioning Iraq but emphasizes the need for the Kurds to enjoy the broadest form possible of self rule for the Kurdish people within Iraq. Juppe assured us that France wants Iraq to fully abide by all UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 688 concerning the Kurdish people's rights, and that France will not lift the economic sanction on Iraq unless Iraq abides by all international resolutions and unless it agrees to allow the Kurdish people to enjoy their legitimate rights within a unified Iraq.

[Nawfal] We would like to ask you about conditions in Iraqi Kurdistan.

[Talabani] Conditions in Iraqi Kurdistan are developing and improving despite the difficult economic and social problems. Despite the presence of 300,000 displaced Kurds from the Karkuk area, to which the Iraqi Government refused to allow them to return, and despite the presence of tens of thousands of victims of the notorious arrest campaign, economic conditions are improving because the Kurdish peasants returned to their villages and began to rebuild them. The crops will be good this year, God willing. The Kurdish people have begun to plant and produce. The democratically elected Kurdish administration have started to electrify hospitals, schools, and other services. Our special security organizations are developing. For instance, the sabotage network sent by the Iraqi government to assassinate foreign nationals recently has been busted. Therefore, several sabotage and assassination networks, which the Iraqi government supported with arms and money, have been wiped out.

[Nawfal] But how can you manage? Are you in control from the security viewpoint, despite all the recent events?

[Talabani] We are in better control that others.

[Nawfal] What do you mean by others?

[Talabani] I mean our neighbors, for instance. Compare our conditions with Tehran, where they have explosions and booby trapped cars every day. With Baghdad, or southern Iraq, where they have daily explosions. Of course, I mean that we should not be compared with Afghanistan and Somalia. We are very much superior in this regard. I mean that even compared to our neighbors, the security conditions are improving in Iraqi Kurdistan. I do not claim that they are ideal, but I am aware of the meaning of the phrase Improving conditions. We hope this improvement will increase in the future. But as you know, we in the east, even in the European countries, we cannot prevent crimes and assassinations and explosions completely. But in Iraqi Kurdistan we realized great successes in foiling many bombings attempts and the killing of innocent people.

[Nawfal] In northern Iraq, you are playing host to non-Kurdish Iraqi opposition groups. How do you deal with them?

[Talabani] Yes, sir, we in Iraqi Kurdistan have an open, democratic society and we are proud of realizing a model democracy. Everybody enjoys democratic freedoms—the freedom of party work, of the media, and of politics. Because Iraqi Kurdistan is part of the Iraqi state, other Iraqi brothers—Arabs, Turkomans, and other Iraqi citizens—have the right to come to Iraqi Kurdistan and work there. For instance, in Iraqi Kurdistan there is the headquarters of the unified Iraqi National Congress [INC], which includes many important groups of the Iraqi opposition and which is continuing unrest for the democratic alternative in Iraq. Our shiite brothers and other parties, even the parties that do not belong to the INC, have the right to work. We have invited our brothers in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the dissident Iraqi regional leadership, and the Islamic al-Da'wah Party, who are outside the INC to come to Kurdistan and work there.

I even would like to give you an exclusive news item. Sharif 'Ali, who is claiming the throne of Iraq, sent me a letter, sometime back, asking to be allowed to open an office in Kurdistan. We have agreed to and welcomed this request. We would like the Iraqi Movement for Constitutional Monarchy [al-harakah al-malakiyah al-dusturiyah fi al-'iraq] to have the right to pursue democratic activity in accordance with the Koranic verse: So announce the good news to my servants, those who listen to the word and follow the best of it.

[Nawfal] Thank you for this revelation. Many reports speak of contacts between Baghdad and Kurdish groups to hold agreements with Baghdad. We do not know how true they are. What is your opinion? How true are they?

[Talabani] These reports are completely baseless because the Iraqi Government does not think seriously of establishing a dialogue with the Kurds and the Kurds do not want this.

[Nawfal] I mean a group of Kurds, not all of them.

[Talabani] These reports are not true. Today I was asked by Juppe and I answered ... [pauses] when we emerged together,

a Turkish reporter asked our opinion of the Turkish attempt to mediate between the Kurdish leadership and the Iraqi Government because Mr. Sanberk, the Turkish Foreign Ministry under secretary, stated upon his return from Baghdad that he proposed this to the Iraqi officials who expressed a desire to have a dialogue with the Kurds to solve this problem. My answer was that Resolution 688 is the correct basis because this resolution includes the need for Iraq to abide by the rights, democratic freedoms, and human rights for all Iraqi citizens, including the Kurds, and asks the Iraqi Government to negotiate and hold a dialogue with Iraqi citizens to realize these rights. If the Iraqi Government is serious, it must implement this resolution, and hold a dialogue with the Iraqi people, including the Kurds, to resolve the issues in a peaceful political manner.

[Nawfal] Thank you, Mr. Jalal Talabani.

[Talabani] Thank you, brother.

Opposition Figure Visits Israel, Holds Talks With Rabin

JN2104204194 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem—Jawad Hashim, Iraqi opposition figure and former minister, has paid a secret visit to Israel and met with Yitzhaq Rabin, Israeli prime minister and minister of defense. He also met with many Israeli officials, including Shim'on Peres, the foreign minister, and Moshe Shahal, minister of police and energy. Moreover, Hashim met with several members of the Labor and Likud parties in the Knesset.

It is noteworthy that this visit by Jawad Hashim, who has been to Israel more than once during the past few years, lasted for several days last week.

Minister Hashim has lived in Europe since the Gulf crisis.

Paper Discusses 'New Iraqi Move' To Lift Embargo

JN2204105594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has urged Arab and friendly countries to be the first ones to break the blockade and contribute to its fragmentation in honor of their relationship with Iraq and in harmony with the legitimate humanitarian aspiration for a world free of problems.

In an article today entitled "The New Iraqi Move...the Timing and the Response," the paper says: A policy of isolation, oppression, and inflicting harm does not befit the relations that should prevail among states. Peace and justice alone befit good neighborliness, understanding, the exchange of legitimate interests, and an open ear to all viewpoints without exception.

The paper adds: The new Iraqi move stems from clear realities whose starting point is the fact that Iraq has fulfilled its commitments and its political and procedural pledges regarding the Security Council resolutions. This was documented in the recent Security Council deliberations. The paper explains that while reminding the Arab brethren and foreign friends of the division in the Security Council, Iraq is looking forward to the political conduct that the United Nations should adopt in harmony with its goals stipulated in the second article of the UN Charter and also in harmony with the world declaration on human rights, especially since this blockade has inflicted grave damage on the Iraqi people.

AL-THAWRAH adds that the blockade has caused many tragedies and a great deal of grief for the Iraqi people, which can under no circumstances be acceptable and which can only be interpreted as seeking to inflict deliberate harm. The paper emphasizes that the blockade has inflicted grave damage on the Iraqi people, and that international will should rise against this situation if it actually respects its own credibility and if it really honors the principles of justice and fairness it is seeking. Otherwise, remaining silent on what happened will only be regarded as encroachment on this credibility and a flagrant violation of these principles.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: We can fairly say that there has been a measure of Arab and world response to the new Iraqi move. The statements made by Arab and foreign leaders after their meetings with President Saddam Husayn's envoys expressed real understanding of Iraq's proposals, and are a positive sign to be added to many positive signs in the international arena. These signs indicate that the end to the blockade must come soon.

Paper Examines U.S. Helicopter Incident

JN2204101794 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 16 Apr 94 p 2

[Article by Mazhar 'Arif: "The Crow's Nest""]

[Text] The incident involving two helicopters in Iraqi Kurdistan must open the eyes of the world public to the nature of the complicated and grave situation in that dear part of Iraq under the control of the coalition forces. It should show the need for action by all possible political means in order to secure the withdrawal of the aggressors from the region and the return of the Iraqi Government to Kurdistan to serve our Kurdish people, as well as peace and stability in that entire region.

Nobody, under the conditions prevailing in Kurdistan, and in light of the incident involving the two helicopters, can guarantee the avoidance of an actual military confrontation between Iraq and the coalition forces. It could happen at any time the United States or any other aggressor state fabricates an incident similar to the one involving the two helicopters, or some other incident, and accuses Iraq of being behind such an incident in order to carry out an aggression against it. This is especially true during the interim period prior to the next

UN Security Council meeting, which will decide whether to increase or reduce the months of the blockade, which is the best description of the current general trend within the Council, including the position of three permanent member states that requested that the chairman's statement on the Council period meetings include reference to Iraq's cooperation with the world organization.

The systematic U.S. campaign against Iraq since the last Security Council meeting, accusing it of violating what is termed "human rights" and perpetrating attacks on UN employees and observers in Kurdistan despite Iraq's repeated denials of these allegations, generally confirms Washington's intentions against Iraq; namely, to carry out a new aggression against it without going back to the Security Council. They hope to do this on the basis that the United States and its collaborators are not in need of another resolution from the Security Council in this regard since the Council had previously empowered them in the session which permitted the 30-state aggression on Iraq in 1991 to wage new attacks if Iraq declined to implement the UN resolutions according to their own opinions. If for some reason the new aggression could not be carried out against Iraq, the other solutions would be continuing the blockade and keeping the situation as it is in the Iraqi Kurdistan region on the pretext of protecting Iraqi Kurds from the Iraqi Army.

We must observe the following:

1. The first announcement about the shoot down of the two U.S. helicopters came from the sources of the renegades. The announcement claimed, even before the facts about the incident became known, that the two helicopters were shot down by the Iraqi Air Force, a deliberate attempt to mix the cards and prepare the psychological environment for a military action by the United States and another ally against Iraq. This is explained by what U.S. officials had kept repeating, several hours after the incident, that they were waiting for the findings from the Coordination Center in Kurdistan and the European Command in Germany before determining the party responsible for the incident.

2. U.S. officials kept insisting, despite their admission that the two helicopters were shot down by two U.S. F-15 fighter bombers, that the two helicopters were carrying UN personnel, which was denied by the United Nations. The U.S. aim behind this was to mislead the world public about the foreign presence in Kurdistan and to portray it as a UN presence. This also was refuted by the spokesman of the UN secretary general when he pointed out that the United Nations had nothing to do with the different activities of the United States and its allies in Kurdistan. The U.S. reference to UN personnel was intended to avert the reaction of the families of the dead Americans, especially in the present circumstances when the U.S. Congress is locked in a sharp dispute with the waffling U.S. president over the Whitewater scandal. So, it was decided to release the information on the helicopter incident and the nationalities of the dead men to the American people in installments.

At any rate, our people and the international community need to be extremely alert so as to confront the intrigues and plans of the United States, which seeks to greatly harm Iraq by every means, both inside and outside the UN Security Council, and to do all it can to make people in the United States and abroad forget the helictoper incident and to implement new plans against Iraq.

Paper Comments on Recent Downing of U.S. Helicopters

JN2104114494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said that the downing of two U.S. helicopters by U.S. aircraft over northern Iraq has revealed the broad rejection of the U.S. policies of hegemony, violence, and aggression.

In an article today entitled "The Downing of the U.S. Helicopters Is First Drops of Rain," the paper adds: Numerous facts will certainly be revealed about similar U.S. crimes which used to be kept secret or forgotten, now that, after the downing of the two U.S. helicopters, the White House can no longer conceal these cheap and lowly adventures after they have been exposed to the whole world.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: Such mistakes will continue to be made without any justification apart from the U.S. grudge against peoples and the desire to control and dominate them. No wonder, therefore, that this topic has drawn the attention of the world media. The paper continues: Everyone is aware of the tragedies of wars and military interventions led by the United States in the world. Everyone recalls, in particular, the U.S. crimes in Vietnam, Panama, Nicaragua, Korea, and Iraq as well as the distress caused to both the American people and the world as a result of the reckless U.S. policy.

The paper wonders how the American people feel regarding the many U.S. soldiers who died in the U.S. wars, and who are left with only memories. The paper concludes that history will uncover the folded pages even if they are concealed by the dust of years or the smoke of intelligence services and those revolving in their orbit.

Rabin States Willingness To Remove Golan Settlements

TA2104114194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Report by Shulamit Schmerling on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's address at the United Kibbutzim Movement convention in Ramat Ef'al on 21 April]

[Text] Today the prime minister addressed a sympathetic audience: Kibbutz members do not shout slogans characteristic of right-wing demonstrations, and their applause is genuine. Yet when the discussion touched on the future of the Golan Heights, the tone changed. Confronted with very bitter and harsh criticism voiced by Golan kibbutzim representatives, who said: You are sacrificing us in advance; you are closing down the settlements, the prime minister laid his cards on the table, stating in no uncertain terms: For the sake of peace, I am willing to remove settlements.

[Begin Rabin recording] I view the Golan Heights through the security prism, first and foremost, no matter whether settlements exist there or not. Security, more than any other consideration, is my criterion for the Golan. Settlements may be removed only for the sake of peace. If we reach the point where we need to remove settlements for the sake of peace, I have been and will remain in favor of it. And I am not trying to whitewash anything or throw up a smoke screen. For me, peace is a higher value for Israel's future and security than this or that group of settlements.

Just this once, let us view the situation in a framework befitting the new reality, befitting a big and strong country, and not the country we were on the eve of our War of Independence, when we had to hold on to every settlement. [end recording]

The prime minister went on to warn: If the peace processes do not make progress this year or by mid-1995 at the latest, we will return to the days of tension, political stalemate, and great peril.

He referred to terror, too. He said, for instance, that since 1 January 1994, the terrorist policy of Hamas and the other radical organizations changed. They realized that without attacks inside the State of Israel, they will not attain their objectives. As a result, 23 have been murdered since 1 January, 20 of them inside Israel.

Evacuation Applies to West Bank, Gaza

TA2204054394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that his remarks on the evacuation of settlements on the Golan Heights in exchange for peace also expressed his position in general with regard to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The prime minister spoke after leaving a convention of the Shinuy [Democratic Movement for Change] movement, in which he also noted that the reports he received from Bucharest and Cairo indicate progress in the negotiations with the Palestinians. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

[Begin recording] [Nir] The prime minister said that the reports he received yesterday from Foreign Minister Peres in Bucharest and Major General Amnon Shahaq in Cairo indicate progress. He does not know whether concluding the negotiations will take one, two, or five weeks; however, he said, we are moving closer to the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement.

Rabin said his position with regard to the evacuation of settlements on the Golan Heights in exchange for peace also reflects his position in general with regard to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Rabin asserted that his statements are unconnected to the negotiations with Syria; however, when referring to the Golan Heights, Rabin used the term Syrian soil.

[Rabin] I was asked a question on the issue of evacuating settlements. I replied that we would not move settlements out of security considerations—not in the Gaza Strip, not in Judaea and Samaria, and not on the Golan Heights. For peace, however, we will be prepared to evacuate settlements. There is a precedent for this: We evacuated all the settlements from the Sinai Peninsula and we tore down Yamit. I believe that these actions were justified at the time, and there is no reason not to do the same today. At the beginning of my remarks, I reiterated that our main struggle in the negotiations with Syria is how to avoid repeating the same price we paid for peace with Egypt—in other words, to avoid having to implement a full withdrawal from every square inch of Syrian soil we conquered and having to uproot every vestige of Israeli presence in the territory conquered from Syria.

[Nir] Rabin was asked whether there was any connection between the timing of his announcement and the negotiations with Syria.

[Rabin] If you read interviews with me that were conducted in the past, you will see that I said that although I would not evacuate settlements for security, I would evacuate them in exchange for peace. Yesterday, I replied to a question on the issue of settlement evacuation which a Golan Heights settler happened to ask. My reply reflected my general position with regard to the Gaza Strip, Judaea and Samaria, and the Golan Heights.

[Nir] Rabin was speaking upon leaving a convention of Shinuy veterans marking the movement's 20th anniversary. [end recording]

Editorial Examines Rabin's Remarks on Golan

TA2104155294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Apr 94 p B1

[Editorial: "Rabin Is Being Flexible"]

[Text] Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on 19 April, the prime minister and defense minister disclosed that the withdrawal recommended by the General Staff in the event of a peace agreement with Syria is less extensive than the withdrawal he finds acceptable. The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] recommendation has not been made public, but the fact the Yitzhaq Rabin does not see eye to eye with the present General Staff and that he is prepared to say as much to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee is curious and noteworthy. To what point and what line does Rabin believe the IDF can withdraw from the Golan Heights without harming Israel's security?

It should be remembered that the prime minister promised U.S. President Bill Clinton last month that Israel would provide Secretary of State Warren Christopher with "a peace package," to be conveyed to Hafiz al-Asad during Christopher's upcoming visit to Damascus. Ever since Israel deviated from the Madrid format at the Oslo talks, official Washington has been painstakingly avoiding interfering too much in the negotiations between Israel and the PLO leadership. Although Clinton welcomed the Declaration of Principles, the handling of its implementation was entrusted to lower ranks. Conversely, the President and the secretary of state have shown great interest in promoting the Israel-Syria peace process; Rabin cannot help taking this U.S. trend into consideration.

Therefore, he tasked Major General Ilan Biran with organizing the preparatory work for a peace package that will be addressed to Syria. The Foreign Ministry, which the prime minister avoided in this context, has also lent a hand to the task. Yet on 19 April, the prime minister described all these papers as materiel ("data") for discussion; he was referring both to the papers prepared by the Foreign Ministry and to the document produced by Gen. Biran and his advisers. Rabin stressed that the final decision will be made by the political echelons; he made it clear that as a military man, he would have preferred a status quo on the Golan Heights, but, he said, "there is a political reality which binds us." In other words: Israel cannot evade making a commitment in principle to effect some withdrawal.

Rabin still speaks of withdrawal "on the Golan," not "from the Golan." He did not discard this stand at the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Yet he must have sensed that with regard to the extent of withdrawal, the Israeli fist should not remain as close as it has been to date. The prime minister is aware of the weight of the precedent of the peace accord with Egypt, and he would like that weight to be reduced, because he is not eager to give up conquered land, because he would like to avoid confrontation with the settlers, and because he wants to demonstrate adherence to the Labor platform advocating territorial compromise. Yet he seems to be readier than in the past to meet Syria halfway, and his remarks of 19 April seem to be sending a signal in al-Asad's direction.

Two questions arise in the wake of the revelation that Rabin is more flexible than the IDF General Staff: Will Clinton and Christopher perceive his attitude as an appropriate recourse to persuade al-Asad to meet Israel halfway? And, if the Americans are pleased, will the Syrian president be prepared to heed the secretary of state's coaxing—if the latter indeed makes such an effort—and withdraw his demand to receive back the entire Golan?

Yitzhaq Rabin has marched a step forward. In a sense, he has passed the ball over to the Damascus court.

Golan Lobby To Launch Information Campaign

TA2204052294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Activists working on behalf of keeping the Golan Heights under Israeli control say they are launching a giant campaign following Prime Minister Rabin's statement yesterday that he would be willing to dismantle settlements on the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Syria. On the fallout from the preime minister's statement, David Ze'ev:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] Golan Heights activists from around the country are said to be ready to launch what is being described as a giant demonstration and information campaign. Over 100 branches of the Golan movement are preparing for intensive activity during the coming weeks, following the prime minister's statement yesterday on dismantling Golan settlements.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has tried to lower expectations for his visit to the Middle East, which he announced will start Sunday, but Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says the prime minister's statement yesterday was one of a series by Israeli officials recently that contribute to the possibility of changing the very slow pace of negotiations with Syria, as he put it, to something which is more intensive than that. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rabin Holds Consultations on 'Final Stage' of Talks

TA2204112394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rabin this morning held consultations on what is thought to be the final stage of the peace talks. Israeli and PLO leaders have said the talks may be completed next week, though this was not certain. If they are, the agreement could be signed in Cairo by Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat in the first week of May. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin Katzenell recording] Taking part at this morning's meeting at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv were Prime Minister Rabin, Justice Minister David Liba'i, Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, and the Israeli negotiators at the Cairo talks, headed by Major General Amnon Shahaq. It emerged that the civilian issues being

negotiated with the PLO were almost completely settled. These have to do with the transfer of power in Gaza and Jericho from the Israeli civilian administration to the Palestinian authority and many other matters. But certain issues have not yet been settled—for example, the number of Palestinian prisoners to be released. The criteria for their release were discussed at this morning's meeting. They will not include those who have murdered Israelis, and Israel insists that they should not include people who committed terrorist acts after 13 September, when the Oslo agreement was signed. The most difficult issue not yet settled is that of jurisdiction.

Minister Yosi Sarid said after this morning's meeting that no Israeli will be tried in a Palestinian court. If an Israeli is accused of committing an offense in Gaza or Jericho, he will be tried in Israel, Sarid said. If this or any other issue is not settled by next week, the Israeli and PLO liaison committee will meet in Cairo under the joint chairmanship of Foreign Minister Peres and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rabin: PLO Pact 'Only Possibility' Against Extremists

TA2104165994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says a new and aggressive type of religious conversion has evolved in the Arab world, and its seeds are being felt even in the Israeli Arab sector. This is an extreme religious approach whose adherents refuse to recognize any non-Islamic political entity. This credo motivates the activities of Hamas and other radical organizations in the territories. Therefore, an arrangement with the PLO is the only possibility. The prime minister made these remarks in a meeting with kibbutzim members.

Gaza Closure Eased After IDF-Fatah Agreement

TA2104194294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] The closure on the territories has been eased. Some 1,000 Gaza residents were today allowed to enter the Green Line boundaries through the Erez roadblock. Our correspondent Shlomi Eldar reports that entry permits were granted not only to laborers but also to family members of Palestinians who are detained in Qezi'ot, as per an agreement reached in negotiations between Fatah and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The IDF commander in the Gaza Strip also permitted PLO people to enter Israel. They had been allowed free passage in the past, but their exit from the Strip was restricted after the imposition of the closure.

Soldier Killed; Rabin Blames 'Enemies of Peace'

TA2204051994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Security forces are carrying out an intensive investigation following the discovery near Jerusalem of the body of a soldier. He was identified as Shahar Simani, age 20, of Ashqelon. The funeral will take place in Ashqelon this afternoon. Details from Tzvi Pantanowitz:

[Begin Pantanowitz recording] Shahar Simani's body was found in a wadi near the Arab village of Bayt Hanina, on the northern edges of Jerusalem. He had been stabbed several times in the back. A local resident found the body and summoned the police around 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Police and its special criminal investigation unit have been working around the clock to try to establish what happened. They say that the soldier was killed some 20 hours before the body was found and that he obviously struggled fiercely with his captors before he was murdered.

The alarm was given by Simani's girlfriend, a resident of Moshav Massu'ot Yitzhaq near Ashqelon, yesterday morning. She said that Simani had telephoned at about 8 PM on Wednesday to say he was on his way to her from Beersheba after leaving his base in the south, where he was training to be an officer. It is thought that he took a bus to the Qastina junction from where he may have hitchhiked to Massu'ot Yitzhaq, about 10 km away.

Security authorities think he was picked up by hostile elements. They are puzzled by the fact that the body was dumped so far away and are considering the possibility he was kidnapped in a car with Israeli license plates. Security forces have noted also that although his personal weapon disappeared, his identity tag and Army identity card were not taken—moves common to the actions of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. In addition, no terror group has so far claimed responsibility. The authorities are seeking witnesses who may have seen Simani getting into a car on Wednesday night.

Prime Minister Rabin last night said that the soldier had been murdered by the enemies of peace, who were continuing to strike at Israelis in an attempt to strengthen those in Israel who were deluding themselves that halting the peace talks would stop the killing. Continued rule over another people would only increase terror, Rabin said. With all the pain involved, Israel would continue to fight extremist terrorism and to negotiate for peace.

Shahar Simani, who was completing an officer's course, was promoted posthumously to the rank of second lieutenant. [end recording]

'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Said Responsible

TA2204062494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpt] An anonymous caller phoned the studio of Israel Television's Arabic department in Jerusalem a short while ago and declared that the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam organization was responsible for the murder of cadet Shahar Simani. [passage omitted]

Ten 'Wanted People' Return From Libya, Algeria

TA2104144294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Ten wanted people returned to Israel today via the Rafah border crossing. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that eight arrived from Libya, while the other two were in Algeria and returned to Israel via Egypt. They were received by their family members near the Rafah border terminal.

Return of Fatah Hawks Deportees Reported

TA2104183394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Eleven deportees returned to the Gaza Strip today via the Rafah border terminal. The returning are Fatah hawks who had spent the last few months in Algeria. Another 16 will return tomorrow, and according to Fatah in the Strip, hundreds of deportees and wanted people will return to the Gaza Strip during the signing of the accord and immediately afterward. [passage omitted]

MIA Relatives, Delegation Meet al-Husayni

JN2104180094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1502 GMT 21 Apr 94

[From the "With the Events" program]

[Text] Representatives of families of Israeli Defense Force's POW's and MIA's met with Faysal al-Husayni at the headquarters of the Palestinian delegation in east Jerusalem today. They handed him a letter to be delivered to the Palestinian leadership in Tunis.

Ahmad 'Ubaydat attended the meeting. Here are more details on this story:

[Begin recording] ['Ubaydat] A delegation representing the families of Israeli MIA's met with Faysal al-Husani at the headquarters of the Palestinian delegation in east Jerusalem this afternoon. The delegation was headed by (Yona Bawmel), father of MIA soldier (Zakharia).

[Bawmel, in Hebrew, with superimposed translation into Arabic] The meeting was cordial. I proposed to al-Husayni that we embark on joint cooperation in the interests of both sides. We hope that there will be joint cooperation between both sides.

['Ubaydat] (Bawmel) handed al-Husayni a memorandum to be delivered to the Tunis-headquartered Palestinian leadership. The memorandum explains the agonies of the families of MIA's.

With regard to al-Husayni, he commented at the end of the meeting, saying:

[Al-Husayni] Indeed, at this point in time, there is no doubt that the two peoples are suffering. There are Israeli MIA's, whose families are suffering. Likewise, there are Palestinian MIA's, whose families are also experiencing agony. This meeting was held at the request of the Israelis. A representative of the Society in Charge of Locating Palestinian MIA's attended this meeting. During this meeting, the Israelis asked us to obtain from the PLO the information it could have on Israeli MIA's. As far as we are concerned, we appreciate this position. We can understand the Israelis' suffering. But, we also discussed with the Israeli delegation the fate of the Palestinian MIA's, particularly since both sides must work to resolve the problem of Israeli and Palestinian MIA's regardless of the political problems that could face them.

['Ubaydat] In reply to a question on the meetings held between Peres and 'Arafat in Bucharest, al-Husayni said:

[Al-Husayni] I hope they will manage to resolve some of the problems still obstructing the Cairo talks during these meetings.

['Ubaydat] Several children of Israeli MIA's staged a demonstration before the headquarters of the Palestinian delegation. They raised placards demanding the release of the Israeli MIA's. [end recording]

Al-Majali, Peres Not Scheduled To Meet in Romania

JN2104120194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0950 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Interview with Fawwaz Abu-Tayih, Jordan's ambassador to Romania, by Yehudit Budek in Bucharest, date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Budek] A meeting was expected to take place here between [Israeli] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and the Jordanian prime minister. Why has the Jordanian prime minister not attended this international economic conference?

[Abu-Tayih] I do not think a special meeting was scheduled to take place between the Jordanian prime minister and the Israeli prime minister. The two sides are attending an international conference that deals, in particular, with economic cooperation between West, Central, and East Europe on the one hand and the Middle East countries. There are aspects of economic cooperation in the post-peace era that concern the countries of this region in general. If a bilateral meeting is needed to achieve a political purpose there will be other occasions. I really do not believe that postponing or canceling the Jordanian prime minister's visit has anything to do with this subject. There may be other reasons for not attending the conference.

[Budek] Do you not think the time is right for such a high-level meeting?

[Abu-Tayih] I believe that the peace process has been launched and there is no going back on it. We have confidence in the future. But, everything will take place in due course. Accelerating matters might be as detrimental as intentional postponment. Everything will take place in due course. The peace process was launched, is proceeding, and is based on firm principles. We were among the first countries in the region to call for peace and work toward it, especially His Majesty King Husayn, who is the man of peace in the region. He was among the first to make efforts to achieve peace in the region.

[Budek] Despite what you are saying we have not noticed any progress in relations between Israel and Jordan even in the economic field?

[Abu-Tayih] It is too early to speak about the economic field. However, progress was achieved in the political field. We signed a working plan with the Israeli side in Washington and a meeting took place between the Jordanian crown prince and the Israeli prime minister. Work is being done to achieve peace. The economic aspect follows the achievement of a peaceful settlement.

Minister Explains al-Majali's Cancellation

JN2204102394 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 21-22 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Nasir Qamash]

[Text] In a statement to AKHIR KHABAR, Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani has said several reasons led to Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali's decision to cancel his visit to Bucharest, where he was due to participate in the Grans Montana Forum, in which politicians and businessmen from Europe and the Middle East take part.

He said the most prominent of these reasons is the inauguration of the extraordinary session of the House of Representatives, and the rumors that Prime Minister al-Majali would meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the sidelines of the forum meetings. Al-'Anani said these reasons called for adopting the decision not to go.

Meanwhile, Dr. al-'Anani said Jordan was not officially informed of the schedule of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour in the region, and Jordan did not ask for this schedule.

Al-'Anani was answering a question on AFP report that Christopher will not stop in Amman and will meet with His Majesty King Husayn in London next Monday.

Parliament Rejects Israeli, Western 'Accusations'

JN2104164194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Apr 94

["Text" of statement issued by the House of Representatives in Amman on 21 April—read by announcer]

[Text] In its session yesterday, the House of Representatives discussed the latest political developments, represented by the Israeli threats to Jordan and the continuing U.S. siege of the Port of al-'Aqabah. The House is of the view that the historic speech by His Majesty King Husayn on completing the first phase of the third Hashemite restoration of the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of Rock has again emphasized Jordan's firm pan-Arab policy on the Palestinian cause, the peace plan, and Arab and humanitarian issues. The House expresses its full support for the Jordanian position on the concept of a just peace in the region, based on the rights of the Palestinians in their Palestinian homeland and the return of Arab sovereignty over Jerusalem, in harmony with international legitimacy and human rights.

The House of Representatives reiterates its rejection and utter denunciation of any Israeli or Western accusations or threats under the pretext of supporting what Israel calls terrorism, and holds the Israeli Government responsible for the results of hindering the peace and stalling the implementation of the UN resolutions known the world over, and and circumventing these

resolutions by exploiting U.S. support for it and the weakness of the Arab position and Arab coordination.

The House expresses its strong support for the struggle and steadfastness of the Palestinian Arab people in their legitimate defense of their land and rights and stresses its stand by our Palestinian people in their just struggle and jihad, which is guaranteed by all international norms and agreements, the Geneva Conventions, and human rights charter.

The House highly appreciates His Majesty King Husayn's personal backing for the restoration of the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock and values his majesty's efforts to preserve the Arab city of Jerusalem, the symbol of peace, and the Muslim and Christian holy places in it, from any tampering whatsoever. The House also expresses its denunciation and condemnation of the continuous U.S. aggression against the Arab nation, represented by the continuing unjust U.S. blockade on the Gulf of Aqaba with the aim of putting all kinds of pressure on steadfast Jordan, to deny it the freedom of national choice, to compel it to abandon its firm pan-Arab policies, and force it to sign a separate peace with Israel in order to serve the Israeli and U.S. objectives of controlling the region and its wealth. The House voices its denunciation of the U.S. blockade against the fraternal people of Iraq and the continuing denial of food and medicine to Iraq.

AL-RA'Y Terms Christopher's Statements Positive

JN2204095194 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Apr 94 p 1

[Editorial: "U.S. Foreign Secretary's Statements"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said: I have proposals to ease the result of the naval blockade imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah. The 45-month embargo on Iraq has caused a heavy burden for Jordan. Relations between Jordan and the United States are excellent. The U.S. position on Jerusalem has not changed. The United States seeks to reach a comprehensive peace in the region, and my tour emphasizes this.

These are highlights of Christopher's statements, which he made at a news conference via satellite broadcast by several world capitals.

If we want to assess these statements, we cannot but describe them as positive and consider them points in favor of the U.S. policy in the region, that is assuming they were not made just for consumption or to prepare for Christopher's upcoming tour of the region, which will begin within days, in his capacity as a full partner in the current peace negotiations between the Arabs and Israel.

For the U.S. secretary of state to take note of the fact that the siege imposed on Iraq and the siege of al-'Aqabah have caused a considerable burden for Jordan is something very important, but talk and statements are one thing and actual implementation is something else.

If the United States is serious about what it says, then the first thing that it should do is to stop these measures and stop all practices that cause any harm to any people in the region.

As for the peace process, the United States, which is the full partner and main sponsor, should play its role honestly and neutrally and without a clear and open bias to the Israeli side as the situation is now. Israel still shows disregard for international charters and resolutions and is obstructing the path of peace in a bid to abort the peace process and preempt the negotiations with the Arabs from tackling any issue that brings a just and comprehensive peace closer.

The United States continues to supply Israel with all means of strength, most modern weapons, and all it needs to remain superior in the region, continue its deviation, and practice all forms of repression, terrorism, killing, and siege on the occupied territories, destroying houses, and launching aggressions against cities and villages, whether in occupied Palestine or south Lebanon. All these practices are carried out while the U.S. Administration is aware of them.

At any rate, we are going to take Warren Christopher's statements seriously, and we hope to see implementation on the ground. Only then we will reconsider what is said about the U.S. full bias toward Israel.

U.S. Embassy Blamed for 'Blackout' on Muscat Talks

JN2104111994 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p 24

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "Congratulations"]

[Text] We would like to congratulate the U.S. Embassy in Amman for being able, over the past 48 hours, to impose a complete media blackout on the stand of the Jordanian observer at the multilateral water talks held in Muscat. The Jordanians did not know what really happened there. They only know the bits that were broadcast by the Israeli media, which celebrated the occasion, and the bits that were broadcast by the BBC, which is usually interested in details such as the kinds of fish that are threatened with extinction in Iraq's marshlands or the red collar of General Garang in southern Sudan.

We began by announcing that we will not contribute to the peace process so long as the siege imposed on our country continues and we ended with sending an observer to Muscat and with imposing a complete blackout about what happened in the Omani capital. What happened is not far away from the Israeli-U.S. game.

What is required now is to consolidate both the principle of siege and negotiations. What is required now is to achieve regional cooperation with Israel before reaching peace. What is required is to set up a center for water studies, without mentioning the region's water, the rights

of the participant countries, or Israel's theft of this water. What is required is to set up a Palestinian water authority without mentioning its powers or the extent of its responsibility for Palestine water on the land of Palestine.

It is the same game faced by the Jordanian negotiator who places the issue of al-Yarmuk River on the negotiating table. Meanwhile, the Israeli negotiator pushes away the Jordanian negotiator's figures and maps and says in a disgusting way: The entire region needs water. So, why do we not think of big desalination projects? Why do we not start big projects to draw the water of the Turkish rivers Seyhan and Ceyhan ? All this means that the al-Yarmuk River is not a subject for discussion, that you must accept God's distribution of water, that the Jordan Valley must depend on technology and drip irrigation, that the Jordan River will be part of the environmental issues, and that all these issues will be discussed within the multilateral talks.

It is the same game. The important thing is the negotiations—negotiations in Washington whose objective is to hold negotiations provided that they are secret negotiations. The objective also is to hold many negotiations provided that they are held in Arab capitals—in whose hotels and streets Israeli officials will walk freely—and provided that the Israeli television carry these talks live to the people who are besieged in their houses in villages and cities in the occupied territory, to the families of the victims of al-Aqsa and al-Ibrahimi Mosques, to the Israeli Defense Forces, and to the settlers who shoot indiscriminately and kill pregnant women and children at play.

It is fine for the Jordanians not to know what their observer has done in Muscat while satellites bring them the latest summer fashions from the well-known Paris fashion houses.

Ministry Asks Iraqi Opposition To Cease Activities

JN2104153694 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Jordanian security authorities have reinforced security precautions to protect Iraqi opposition figures residing in Amman after the assassination of Shaykh Talib al-Suhayl in Beirut.

The Jordanian Interior Ministry asked the Iraqi opposition in Jordan to stop its political and media activities against Iraq and to adhere to observed regulations and laws. The Jordanian Interior Ministry also decided not to renew the residency of any Iraqi opposition after it expires. This is in order to limit the activities of the Iraqi opposition and to prevent any future tension between Jordanian authorities and the opposition if it violates the red lines set by the Jordanian Government.

It was learned that although the Jordanian Government allowed a number of Iraqi opposition members to live in Amman, this does not mean they are allowed to practice political and media activities. This is especially true because Jordan is a democratic country and cannot prevent any Arab citizen from living in it as a long as he adheres to the regulations and laws. Despite the fact that the opposition is carrying out some simple social activities and is sending some faxes here and there, this is not the same as allowing the Iraqi opposition to work.

Al-Majali Receives Iraqi, Yemeni Awqaf Ministers

JN2104170394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Today in his Prime Ministry office, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received Iraqi Minister of Awqaf 'Abd-al-Mun'im Salih. The prime minister also received Ghalib al-Qirshi, Yemeni minister of awqaf and guidance. The two meetings were attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Abbadi, minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs.

During the two meetings views were exchanged on various issues of concern to Arab and Islamic countries. The Iraqi Awqaf minister expressed his thanks to the king, people and Government of Jordan for their pan-Arab stands and their support for various Arab issues that reinforce Arab solidarity. He said the Arab and Islamic delegations were eager to take part in the Kingdom's celebrations of the third Hashemite-sponsored renovation of the holy Dome of the Rock. He said the celebration has a deep meaning in terms of everyone's concern about the Arabism of Jerusalem. This is important to all. Jordan had the privilege of renovating it, despite the difficult circumstances it is facing. He said the issue of Jerusalem should unite Arabs and Muslims during the current circumstances facing the nation. He noted the importance of holding meetings among Arabs and Muslims in order to strengthen ties and prevent differences.

For his part, the Yemeni minister made statements to the Jordanian News Agency PETRA noting the importance of exchanging views and ideas among the brothers to reach positive results that should unite the nation's ranks.

Crown Prince Receives Former Algerian President

JN2104190394 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, received former Algerian president Ahmed Ben Bella at the Royal Hashemite Court today.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed prospects of Arab cooperation and detente as well as efforts to clear the atmosphere and bolster inter-Arab relations.

President Ben Bella praised continued Jordanian efforts to protect the holy places in holy Jerusalem and to

maintain the Arabism of Jerusalem against the Israeli siege imposed on it and Israel's continued efforts to Judaize it.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, could you give us an idea about your meeting with his highness the crown prince this morning?

[Ben Bella] I must say that I am not a visitor. I consider myself from this country. The crown prince is my brother. Frankly, it is a wedding day for me when I visit you. I came to take part in the celebrations of the third Hashemite-sponsored renovation of the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. I came to see my brothers and ask about them. We are really proud of you all.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, how do you view talk in Algeria about prospects of dialogue between the Algerian Government and the Islamic Salvation Front?

[Ben Bella] It is a serious dialogue and I believe it will bear fruit soon, God willing. The situation in Algeria is difficult but not in the way it is being exaggerated outside. I mean the situation is not easy, but the process of reaching an agreement and achieving national reconciliation is going on. Many elements, including the new president, are seeking to achieve national reconciliation.

[Correspondent] The final question, Mr. President. Throughout your years of struggle, you always called for better inter-Arab relations for a better Arab future. How do you view inter-Arab relations now and efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere?

[Ben Bella] I am satisfied with this. The issue of unity is a given. We must unite. The world is uniting. Europe is uniting. America even united with Mexico. How can we not unite? We must unite. God willing, we will achieve unity even though this will take time and even though there are obstacles. However, we must unite. To be or not to be. We will unite, God willing.

[Correspondent] God willing, sir.

[Ben Bella] Our conscience is united. Regardless of what governments may think, our conscience is united. We must unite, God willing.

[Correspondent] God willing. Thank you Mr. President. [end recording]

Paper Welcomes Shift in Hamas Position on Peace

JN2104124694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21-22 Apr 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Positive Signals, Future Hopes"]

[Text] The reported acceptance by Islamic resistance Movement, Hamas, of a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict is a welcome development. The apparent shift in the movement's strategy was spelled out by one of Hamas's senior members, the head of its political bureau, Musa Abu-Marzuq who is based in Damascus. It was confirmed yesterday by Hamas leaders in the occupied territories. Both Jordan and the U.S. received this development warmly.

This shift in the hardline Islamist group's thinking, which so far advocated a maximalist position, is an omen of goodwill not only for the Palestinian-Israeli track of negotiations but also for the wider Arab-Israeli Muslim-Western conflict.

On the Palestinian-Israeli track, Hamas occupies a leading role both in the occupied territories, especially in Gaza, and among the Damascus-based Palestinian rejectionists, the so-called Alliance of Palestinian Forces that groups 10 factions.

If Hamas would join the negotiations that would certainly lead to reduced tension in the occupied territories, would strengthen Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's hand both in the Palestinian camp and in his quest for an accelerated process and would expose Israeli hardliners. What matters now is how Israel and the PLO would respond to the Hamas initiative. Any deal with Hamas now, either on the Israeli or on PLO behalf, would smoothen transition towards Palestinian self-rule and put to rest fears of imminent Palestinian infighting.

On the Arab front, any involvement of Hamas in the peace negotiations would lead to the mitigation of Islamists' ideologies especially in Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan. The Muslim Brotherhood movements in Egypt and in Jordan can only be expected to lend support to their Palestinian brothers. Likewise, Lebanon's Shi'ites will be watching to see if their fellow Islamists in Palestine would be wrestling Palestinian right from the Israelis through negotiations.

On the wider Muslim-Western front, Hamas's involvement in peace negotiations with Israel and by extension the U.S. will open a main channel of communication between Muslims and the West that can only lead to an enhanced understanding between the two.

We see in the development a precious opportunity that should be seized by the Palestinians, Arabs, Israelis and Americans. In light of that we see the response by the Jordanian government and the U.S. administration as positive signs the PLO and Israel should emulate.

Ja'ja' Arrested 21 Apr, To Be Interrogated

NC2104211694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Judicial sources reported tonight that in accordance with a subpoena and an arrest warrant issued on 21 April 1994 by the two officers investigating the crimes of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church bombing in Zuq Mikha'il and the assassination of engineer Dani Sham'un and his family, Mr. Samir Ja'ja' was brought in for interrogation tonight.

Army Seizes FRC Camp, Detains Personnel

NC2104122994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk: A Lebanese Army force of four troop carriers, four military vehicles, several Jeep-type vehicles, and about 75 soldiers raided a camp belonging to the Fatah Revolutionary Council [FRC] located 1 km north of 'Ayta al-Fakhkhar, near Rashayya al-Wadi.

The Army confiscated the contents of the 20-room camp: four truckloads of cabinets, beds, military hardware, an automobile, and a water tanker. The Army took a number of FRC personnel into custody and closed down the camp.

Syrian Forces Assist in Raids

NC2104165894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Lebanese Army, in coordination with the Arab Syrian forces in al-Biqa', also raided three centers affiliated with the [Fatah Revolutionary Council—FRC] Palestinian training camp in al-Rawdah. The Army detained 18 Palestinians and confiscated military vehicles, ammunition, and military equipment.

Weapons, Vehicles Seized

NC2104200794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] There is more on our report on the storming of Fatah Revolutionary Council [FRC] centers in al-Rawdah and 'Ayta al- Fakhkhar in al-Biqa' this morning. Lebanese Army units, supported by Syrian Arab Forces, this evening completed emptying the depots. They seized a large quantity of weapons, ammunition, artillery rounds, Grad rockets, and military hardware estimated at 25 truckloads. They also seized a number of trucks, military vehicles, and tractors.

Minister Invalidates Firearms Licenses for 2 Days

NC2204083994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul today issued decision No. 463 invalidating firearms licenses all over Lebanon from 1800 hours on Monday, 25 April to 0600 hours on Wednesday 27 April 1994. The Army command has been authorized to implement the provisions of this decision.

Al-Hariri, Syrian Minister Discuss Ties, Projects

JN2004091294 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 2 Apr 94 pp 1,11

[Text] Beirut—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri yesterday received Construction and Building Minister Majid 'Izzu Ruhaybani and the members of his delegation who arrived in Beirut yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Hasan Yusuf, chairman of the Council of the South; and Nasri Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council.

The discussion during the meeting dealt with bilateral ties, historical bonds, and existing relations between the two fraternal countries and means of strengthening them for the sake of their common interests and aims.

In a statement to journalists, minister Ruhaybani reaffirmed Syria's continued support for Lebanon's national unity, reconstruction and struggle to liberate its occupied territory. He said that Syria, as directed by President Hafiz al-Asad, is always ready, prompted by a fraternal motive, to carry out any project needed by Lebanon.

The minister pointed to the schools that were built in southern Lebanon by Syrian companies in cooperation with the Higher Committee in Support of the South, saying: We are ready to contribute toward the reconstruction of Lebanon within the framework of the existing strong fraternal cooperation between the two countries.

Ruhaybani and his delegation held a meeting yesterday afternoon with Dr. Hasan Yusuf, chairman of the Council of the South, and the Council board members during which they discussed their joint work in the services projects which are being carried out in southern Lebanon through joint financing by the Syrian Committee of Solidarity With the People of the South and the Council of the South. The discussion also dealt with aspects of future cooperation and means of backing the steadfastness of the people of southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa' in confronting the repeated Israeli attacks.

Dr. Hasan Yusuf praised the continuous support given by Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad to the people of the South to ensure their steadfastness against the Israeli occupation. He said in a statement to the Syrian Arab News Agency that the projects which have been carried out in southern Lebanon with joint Syrian-Lebanese financing affirm the importance of the Syrian role in ensuring the means and requirements for the steadfastness of the people of the South against Israeli attacks.

Dr. Yusuf expressed the southern Lebanese people's thanks to President Hafiz al-Asad for ordering the building of schools and the reconstruction of houses which were destroyed by the Israeli occupation forces through contribution of building materials and the expertise of Syrian companies which are carrying these projects, including schools, roads, electrification, buildings, and so forth.

Ruhaybani also met with Muhammad Bassam Murtada, Lebanese minister of public works and transport. The discussion dealt with Syrian-Lebanese relations and the strengthening of the existing fraternal bonds between the two countries and supporting the implementation of services projects which are being carried out by the Syrian General Construction Company in fraternal Lebanon.

Syrian, Lebanese Ministers Discuss Transport, Agriculture

JN2004085294 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 9 Apr 94 pp 1,11

[Text] Beirut—Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri yesterday received Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini and Transport Minister Dr. Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim in the presence of Lebanese Minister of State for Financial Affairs Fu'ad al-Sanyurah, Transport Minister 'Umar Misqawi, and Secretary General of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council Nasri Khuri.

Misqawi received the Syrian finance and transport ministers and the accompanying delegation which included the directors of the two ministries on their arrival at the Syrian-Lebanese border post yesterday morning. They were also received by Nasri Khuri.

Minister Misqawi affirmed that the meeting with the two Syrian ministers is a continuation of the meetings taking place between the two countries within the framework of the special relations between them, especially in the field of transport between Lebanon and Syria.

Dr. al-Mahayini said the visit is a continuation of the meetings between the two fraternal countries in implementation of the Treaty of Fraternity, Cooperation, and Coordination, which is aimed at unifying systems between the two countries and removing all obstacles, especially with regard to transport which is the aim of the visit.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim said: We are following up what we have begun. We will discuss setting certain rules to control the movement of individuals and goods between the two countries.

Nasri Khuri also made a statement in which he said: Our meeting is aimed at implementing the agreement on the movement of goods and individuals, facilitating this process, and discussing the fees which will be charged on cars and trucks.

Regarding agricultural cooperation between the two countries, Agricultural and Agrarian Reform Minister As'ad Mustafa said that he and Lebanese Agriculture Minister 'Adil Qirtas submitted to Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri the results of the meetings they held in Damascus and Beirut.

In a statement following his meeting with al-Hariri yesterday, the minister added: These meetings resulted in the signing of three protocols on joint agricultural cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the fields of: 1) agriculture, both vegetable and animal; 2) agricultural quarantine; and 3) veterinary quarantine. We also reviewed the subject of the joint marketing company, whose draft agreement is almost ready.

Minister Mustafa affirmed the importance of these protocols in developing relations of mutual cooperation in the interest of the one people in the two fraternal countries.

Israeli Gunboats, Artillery Shell Southern Areas

NC2204102694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Israeli gunboats opened fire at the al-'Izziyah area, near al-Qulaylah, after midnight last night. The enemy forces' artillery also shelled the area extending from al-Mansuri to Majdal Zun and the coastal stretch south of Tyre from their positions on al-Bayyad hill and al-Hardun at 0200 today. The shelling was accompanied by Israeli helicopter overflights.

'Something New' Sought From Christopher Visit

JN2004171694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The United States has announced its Secretary of State Warren Christopher is coming to the region in order to activate the peace process. The word activation is a loose enough term. It might mean just going through the motions, or might, on the other hand, imply a more significant and far-reaching action. Activation can be either the mere formality of calling the negotiators back to the conference table or a meaningful and purposeful exercise.

We do not think the U.S. secretary, who is known for his seriousness, would take the trouble to come to the region just for the formal activation of the negotiating tracks that have been suspended in Washington—that is, the Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian tracks—or for the sake of securing a new round of negotiations that will be added to the previous rounds, as far as achieving limited results.

We believe the activation required in the peace process and on which Secretary Christopher will focus during his tour very much depends on how this U.S. effort tells us what the term honest and unbiased partner means.

We realize Israel does not want the United States to be a partner or an unbiased and honest broker. Israel wants the United States to be biased toward all its stands. Despite the fact that more than two years have passed since the Madrid conference, these have prevented the achievement of the aspired peace. We, as Arabs, continue to wait for the United States to translate its role as an honest and unbiased partner in the peace negotiations into pressure on more than just the Arab side alone—pressure that sometimes has reached the point of cheapness, as happened in the drug list issue—and also pressure the Israeli side. Indeed, the Israeli side was encouraged by the continuous U.S. and Western support of its aggression, occupation of the Arab territories, and disavowal of Arab people's rights to continue its intransigence and refuse to comply with the bases of the peace process. Without these bases, it is hard to imagine the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in this region.

Syria has always welcomed and encouraged effective U.S. efforts to push the issue of a just and comprehensive peace in the region forward. Syria continues to pin hopes on an honest and unbiased U.S. role, based on its conviction that there is no room, in any way, to depend on Israeli intentions to achieve this peace.

The obstacles placed by Israel for more than two years of negotiations have shown the accuracy and soundness of Syria's position that Israel is not serious about peace, which should be comprehensive and just in order for it last.

What Israeli officials are announcing these days in terms of preconditions and rejection of full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, as stipulated by UN resolutions, reinforces the conviction that the Israeli stand shows no signs of hope concerning the future of the negotiations.

Therefore, the way to achieve an actual and meaningful activation of the peace process depends, as we said earlier, on the U.S. secretary bringing something new with him.

We do not think we are exaggerating when we say a priority task for the first sponsor of the peace process is to use its influence on the obstructive Israeli side in order to reinforce the chances for achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

Papers View Christopher Statements on Upcoming Tour

JN2204092994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Press Review]

[Text] In a commentary entitled "The Israeli Obstacle and the U.S. Responsibility," AL-THAWRAH says: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive in the region on the day after tomorrow on a new tour whose set objective is to secure a breakthrough on all tracks of the peace talks.

The paper notes that Christopher lacks optimism about the outcome of his upcoming tour even before it has begun. The commentary speculates that this is due to the current situation of the peace process. As the U.S. Administration knows, this process is now backed up against an impasse due to its constant collision with the Israeli position, which rejects the bases and principles of this process as well as the only objective for which this process was unleashed; namely, establishing a real peace based on the literal implementation of the Madrid formula, the relevant UN resolutions, and the land-for-peace principle.

AL-THAWRAH adds: If we analyze the Israeli position on this process, we will find that Israel rejects the Madrid formula and bases in order to replace them with another formula that conforms to Israel's expansionist objectives after Israel has discovered that this formula—which seeks a just and comprehensive peace—conflicts with what Israel wants and seeks to achieve through the kind of peace it seeks.

Noting the Israeli officials' intransigent positions on Jerusalem, withdrawal from the Golan, and settlements, the paper says: These positions irrevocably confirm that Israel is not seeking a balanced and durable peace; it is only seeking a partial solution that would maintain its occupation of the Arab territories or at least the largest portion of these territories.

AL-THAWRAH continues: As long as the set objective of Christopher's upcoming regional tour is to secure a breakthrough on all tracks of the peace talks, it is better for this tour to focus on removing the reasons behind both the stumbling peace process and the tense regional situation. Naturally, all these are caused by Israel in a bid to ensure success for its objectives.

Concluding its commentary, the paper urges the U.S. Administration to exert the utmost pressures on Israel in order to make it yield to international will and legitimacy.

In another commentary on the same topic, AL-THAWRAH says: Christopher has stated that his tour will remarkably routine, that it will be devoid of any U.S. peace plans, and that he does not expect it to bring any effective detente. These statements remove, in advance, any remaining optimism and dash the hopes for a possible circumvention of the current impasse and deadlock in the peace process or for activating the talks which have stumbled due to Israeli intransigence.

The paper adds: Given this new tone, which is in harmony with both the U.S. statements and shipments of financial, military, and political aid to Israel—which reached a peak recently—we must wonder: What interest does peace have in all this? What interest does the U.S. people have in keeping the region volatile, subject to setbacks, and mortgaged to Israeli terrorism and occupation that violates all values and defies all international norms and laws and human rights?

Concluding its comment, AL-THAWRAH says: As long as U.S. political decisionmaking is biased toward Israel, and as long as the Security Council resolutions are not implemented, efforts will continue to be a waste of time and peace will not be achieved if the occupied Arab territories and rights are not regained.

U.S. Diplomacy Must Go Beyond 'Mailman's Mission'

JN2104143394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will begin a new tour of the region within days in a mission aimed at advancing the peace process. The U.S. secretary's visit comes after a lengthy halt in the Washington peace talks and in the wake of a premeditated Israeli attempt to conceal the peace process behind a thick wall of blood and fire. Meanwhile, the Israeli rulers stabbed the peace process in the back, undermined it, and derailed it from the bases set for it. This has created a gloomy and disappointing atmosphere, making it hard to be optimistic about the possibility of advancing the peace process and extricating it from the difficult situation created by the Israeli rulers.

Perhaps the phrase advancing the peace process has been rendered meaningless. It has been repeated so many times without any really positive result. U.S. officials have made many journeys between Washington and the region in a mission they call advancing the peace process, or helping the parties overcome difficulties and return to the negotiating table. This is because those officials' tours, visits, and talks have not gone beyond a mailman's mission. They have not placed the wheels of the peace train on the track to the aspired and set objective of a just, comprehensive peace.

There is a great difference between the mission of advancing the peace process and a mailman's mission. There is a great difference between the role of a full partner and impartial broker on the one hand and the role of a silent partner ignoring Israel's evasion of the objectives of the U.S. initiative and disavowal of its bases and frameworks. The full-partner role the United States has chosen to play has not led to a change in the role played by U.S. officials. Thus, it has been revealed that the U.S. partner is a partner only in terms of complaining about the halt in the negotiations and about the looming difficulties and obstacles. Besides, this partner evades the requirements of this partnership, represented by the need to call for adopting the bases set for the peace process and respecting international legitimacy and its resolutions.

Moreover, two days ago, a U.S. official called on the Arabs to appease Israel, fully normalize relations with it, to end the Arab boycott, and to meet other similar requests previously made by the Israeli rulers. This shows Washington absolutely adopts the requests of one party, and absolutely ignores the requests of the other party. It seems the memory of some Washington officials is weak. They do not remember, or rather do not want to remember, that the party occupying others' territory is Israel, that the party confiscating others' rights is Israel, that the party that launched aggressive wars is Israel, that the party that defied the resolutions of international legitimacy is Israel, and that the party that rejected the bases of the peace process and conspired against it is Israel. On the other hand, the Arabs have been the victims of the Israeli rulers' aggression, expansionist policy, and constant threat of using weapons, including weapons of mass destruction. In this case, we ask: Who is required to prove their good intentions: The Arabs or Israel? The Arabs have accepted UN resolutions and cooperated with all international initiatives to establish peace. The Arabs did all that in a quest for a just, comprehensive peace. No peace can be established and last unless it is just and comprehensive. However, others should know that the desire for peace cannot lead the Arabs to capitulate to the law- breaking Israeli rulers. Nor can it lead the Arabs to accepting that dictates are imposed on them, as wished by Rabin and those who sympathize with him. [passage omitted]

However, what happened after the Geneva meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton made many parts of the world news media pose a legitimate

question about whether the U.S. Middle East policy is drawn by the elected U.S. President, who has adopted the peace process and its bases and called for a just, comprehensive peace, or by other parties who want to appease Israel at the expense of the Arabs and their rights, justice, peace, and international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

Daily Urges Arabs To Stop Israeli 'Infiltration'

JN1904075794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Apr 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israel's Ambitions Target All", AL-BA'TH comments: Dennis Ross, overall U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace talks, will reportedly come to the region shortly to set the stage for a tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. According to some news reports, Christopher will try to work out with the parties a date for resuming the stalled talks.

The Americans had said that, as far as the peace talks were concerned, they had nothing new to offer. Arab and foreign media have noted that the Americans are backtracking on previous positions and even gradually adopting the Israeli line and extending financial and military backing to Tel Aviv. Observers around the world observe that the U.S. Administration is now pushing Israel in the direction of war rather than peace.

The paper urges the United States to take a clear-cut position on the mechanism of the peace process. Washington, AL-BA'TH adds, is aware that while the Arabs have done all they could to help the peace process along Israel continues to maneuver and temporize.

In the overall pan-Arab interests and given that the Arabs cannot afford further breaches as the Oslo accord and what is taking place in Muscat and what will take place in Doha, Arab parties involved in the peace process should commit themselves to whatever their coming coordination session recommends. If the Arabs really care about their interests and future, the gaps through which Israel is infiltrating the Arab world should be sealed, AL-BA'TH asserts.

We are right to urge all Arabs to sharpen their awareness of what is going on around them and be more alert to what is being planned against all of us without exception. It is not as if a just and comprehensive peace has been attained; indeed, Israel's rejectionist disposition diminishes the chances for such peace, AL-BA'TH concludes.

Afghanistan

Opposition Forces Launch Rocket Attack on Kabul

LD2104195794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Residential areas of the city of Kabul were subjected to rocket attack by the infamous Golboddin-Dostam militia today, too. A General Command of Kabul Garrison source reported to the BIA correspondent that the infamous militia this morning and afternoon targeted Wards two, four, nine, and 10 of the city of Kabul with rockets and mortar shells. As a result of this savage attack one compatriot was martyred and 12 others were injured. On top of the loss of life, today's rocket attack caused damage to some dwellings, too.

Mojahedin, Islamic Forces Reportedly Clear Area

LD2104192894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Mojahedin and Islamic army forces cleared a large area in Sar-e Pol Province from Dostum's infamous militia in the course of a clearing-up operation. Sources of the armed forces told a correspondent of BIA that as a result of this victorious operation, which was mounted in coordination with mojahedin and Islamic army forces in Sar-e Pol Province, the villages of Khwaja Boldak, Bazarak, [words indistinct], Khwaja Yagana, [words indistinct], Bola Ghondai have been cleared of the infamous Dostum militia. A large quantity of the militia's heavy and light weapons have been captured by the mojahedin and Islamic army forces. Similarly in the course of this operation, tens of the militia were killed and injured. [passage omitted]

Dostum Militia General Killed by Hekmatyar Forces

LD2104211794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] General Sakhi, known as Sakhi Broot, a militia general, was killed by Golboddin's militia in Dasht-e Saqawa south of Kabul in Logar Province. Security sources reported to BIA's correspondent that this professional criminal some days ago fought Golboddin's militia over looted goods; as a result of which he was killed along with his three bodyguards. The general's body still lies in Dasht-e Saqawa and is decomposing. No one has come to remove his body. Sakhi Broot some time ago stole the carpets of Sayed Abdolqader Jaylani mosque in Sayd Nur Mohammad Shah Mena, killed an innocent shepherd in the same area, and divided up his sheep among the militia. He was a notorious Dostum general and had a hand in many crimes.

Mojaddedi on Alliance With Dostam, Continuation of War

PM2104101494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Apr 94 p 10

[Interview with former Afghan President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi by Salih Qallab in Peshawar; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Qallab] Do you deal with Rabbani now on the basis that he is the president of Afghanistan or the leader of an armed faction?

[Mojaddedi] I do not deal with Rabbani at all, nor do I recognize the government as a legitimate government.

When Nawaz Sharif was prime minister of Pakistan, he made his well-known initiative. So we, representatives of all Afghan organizations, met and secured a solution. Then we went to holy Mecca and swore on the Koran that we would implement it. Then we went to Tehran. When I signed the agreement, I made it a condition that Rabbani's presidential term should not last more than four months. And I said that legislative elections should be held. But Rabbani has abandoned all these obligations and imposed himself as president for all this time through his organization only and against the will of all the other Afghan factions.

I would like to say once again that Rabbani's government is illegitimate, I do not recognize it, and I cannot deal with it. Rabbani tried to offer the organization I lead two ministerial posts in his present cabinet but I turned down the offer.

[Qallab] If Rabbani's term ends in two and a half months and he does not resign, what will happen?

[Mojaddedi] There is nothing except war; there is a war raging now, and it will continue.

[Qallab] There is a cease-fire in Kabul at present?

[Mojaddedi] It lasts for an hour or two, a day or two—which is futile. The cease-fire was agreed in Kabul but the war has continued in many other provinces.

[Qallab] It is clear that Rabbani will not resign, nor will Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. So what are you going to do?

[Mojaddedi] The war will continue.

[Qallab] For how long?

[Mojaddedi] Until they are forced to relinquish power. I tell you here that they cannot last long, as they are in a weak position. They have been moved out completely from the northern provinces of the country. They have been eliminated completely. Therefore, if they are moved out of the part they control at the moment, they will be finished completely. [passage omitted]

[Qallab] Whom does Iran support in this war?

[Mojaddedi] Iran supports no one. If it supports anyone, it will support the Shiite group (al-Wahdah Party). These people are poor people and facing numerous problems.

[Qallab] Is there any thought of widening the alliance between Abdul Rashid Dostam and Hekmatyar?

[Mojaddedi] As far as I am concerned, I am in this alliance. There is a shura council for these people, and the organization I lead is represented in this council. And I support their moves.

[Qallab] Abdul Rashid Dostam was minister in Najibullah's government, so why do you ally yourself with parties that were communist?

[Mojaddedi] That is wrong. Dostam was in Najibullah's government, but he discovered the truth and separated from and turned against it. Had it not been for Dostam's stance against that government, it would not have been possible to topple it, and it would have stayed for 10 more years. [passage omitted]

[Qallab] It is said that a large number of "Afghan Arabs" have moved to Afghanistan, where they are now in camps to rehabilitate them and send them to the Arab countries to create conditions like those in Algeria and Egypt. Is that true?

[Mojaddedi] That is an issue in which we are very interested. In fact, we are embarrassed when anyone asks us about it. Because over 15 years—even though the Soviet aggression was very clear—none of the Afghan factions committed any action against diplomatic missions abroad. We did not try to bomb any Soviet embassy. Nor did we try to assassinate any Soviet ambassador. We fought the Soviet Army occupying our country. But we did not commit any terrorist operation.

Regrettably, immediately after the victory of the Afghan revolution some brothers—and they are known—opened camps for Arab volunteers, trained them, and then sent them back to their original country to carry out acts like those you talk about, like what is happening in Egypt and Algeria. I saw some of these camps with my own eyes. And there are still camps on which millions are spent in order to launch terrorist operations against Arab and Islamic states. [passage omitted]

[Qallab] What is your opinion of what is happening in Algeria and Egypt?

[Mojaddedi] I said that we do not interfere in others' internal affairs. I am against killing innocent people. It has nothing to do with Islam at all. I believe the proper thing is to focus on the Islamic call [al-da'wah al-islamiyah].

[Qallab] That means that you are against violence in Algeria and Egypt?

[Mojaddedi] Yes, I am against violence. People should use logic and persuasion, not explosives.

Bangladesh

Rebels, Troops Trade Charges of Cease-Fire Violations

BK2104093794 Hong Kong AFP in English 0656 GMT 21 Apr 94

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Khagrachari, Bangladesh, April 21 (AFP)—A fragile truce threatens to collapse in this rugged district as Bangladesh troops and Buddhist rebels trade charges of violating a ceasefire signed last year to end a dragging bush war.

"The army is still carrying out combing operations," said tribal leader Kisha (eds: one name) and cited an incident on April 12 when soldiers allegedly beat tribals indiscriminately in this frontier district bordering India.

"This shows a lack of sincerity" on the part of the troops, Kisha added.

A Bangladeshi army officer here confirmed that operations to flush out the outlawed guerrillas were continuing, but denied allegations that soldiers were using repressive measures to combat tribal insurgency here.

"If we know that insurgents have taken position in a village, you do not expect us to sit tight," the army officer added.

On ceasefire violations, the officer said: "We do not fire unless we are fired upon—we maintain that strictly."

He asserted that it was the rebels who violated the ceasefire frequently in three districts of Bangladesh's Chittagong hill tracts.

Both Kisha and the officer, however, said insurgency-related violence in the sprawling tracts ebbed since the first ceasefire offered by the rebels became effective last year and was extended several times.

Government troops have been fighting Shanti Bahini (Peace Brigade) Buddhist rebels in the frontier hill districts of Khagrachari, Rangamati and Bandarban for the past 19 years.

The bush war has, by an official count, left more than 2,500 people dead, many of them killed in rebel ambushes and riots with Moslem settlers. The unofficial toll is widely believed to be much higher.

The Bahini, which claims to have 3,000 guerrillas on its rolls, have allegedly set up bases in adjoining Tripura state in India where some 56,000 tribespeople, mostly from the Buddhist Chakma tribe, have taken shelter.

The question of repatriation of the Chakmas to the tracts here remains embroiled in controversy with New Delhi demanding guarantees of safety for the homeless returnees.

Bangladesh army sources said during the year-long ceasefire the Bahini rebels were responsible for 60 violations. The rebels say the soldiers broke the ceasefire 54 times since last May.

"(Armed) activities have reduced a lot, but not zeroed... In recent days there has been no deaths in military-rebel engagements," the army officer said.

This pictureseque valley-town, situated 1,300 feet (394 metres) above sea level, could have been a holiday resort. But the dragging insurgency has discourged western or local tourists from visiting the region.

Security forces patrol the town as well as nearby villages. Troops with machineguns are positioned in secured towers atop hills here.

Residents say life has become easier since the ceasefire, which is due to end on May 15, came into effect.

"We still feel scared and people are careful not to be out of homes after evening," said Anup Chakma, a tribesman.

Other residents agreed that the fragile ceasefire had given everyone a respite from the regular gunbattles and bloodletting in this remote zone of Bangladesh.

Indian Governor Discusses Refugees With Minister

BK1904143094 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Communications Minister Oli Ahmed has said the government has done everything possible for the return of Chakma refugees from the Indian state of Tripura. he said this while talking to the visiting governor of Tripura, Romesh Bhandari, when he called on him in Dhaka on Monday evening. The convenor of the committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts, Mr. Oli Ahmed, said arrangements made by the government can be seen by anyone willing to do so. The minister invited Mr. Bhandari to visit Chittagong Hill Tracts to see the state of repatriates and steps taken by the government for their settlement. Mr. Bhandari expressed satisfaction over the repatriation process and assured full cooperation in this regard. He hoped the process of repatriation will be resumed next month.

Mr. Bhandhari is expected to call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia Tuesday.

Visits Repatriated Chakma Refugees

BK2104024494 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The governor of the Indian state of Tripura, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, visited the repatriated Chakma refugees at Ramgarh in the Khagrachari Hill District Wednesday morning. The governor saw for himself the resettlement process and expressed his satisfaction. Talking to the refugees, who have been resettled after their repatriation from Tripura, he urged them to (?persuade) the remaining Chakma refugees now in Tripura to return to their homes in Bangladesh and enjoy the facilities given by the Bangladesh Government for their resettlement in the hill tracts.

On his arrival at Ramgarh from Dhaka in the morning, Mr. Bhandari was taken to the local Circuit House. The governor met the Chakma refugees there and inquired about their resettlement. Earlier, high officials briefed the visiting governor of the steps taken by the government for the returnees. The chairman of the Chakma Refugees Rehabilitation Committee also [words indistinct]. Reports say Mr. Bhandari left for Dighinala and (Banchori) to see the condition of the resettled Chakma refugees there.

Impact of GATT on Third World Farmers Viewed

BK2104131094 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 12 Apr 94 p 5

[Editorial: "GATT's Patent Proposals May Spell Doom For Third World Farmers"]

[Text] Although, in principle, we have always come out on the side of copyright and patent holders, the new GATT patent proposals may mean that farmers will not be allowed to plant seed unless they paid royalties to one of the patent holding companies. By extending patenting laws to the Third World it means that companies can control and market crop varieties in countries which may have donated the genetic material used to breed those varieties. Most of the raw materials for the high-yielding seed that is developed in the laboratories of Western companies comes from Third World fields but the irony of it all is that farmers who have received no reward for parting with the raw material that makes manipulation of genes possible, may be asked to pay royalties for their use. The UN International Trade Commission has estimated that U.S. companies, in all sectors, stand to gain USD 61 billion a year from developing countries in royalty payments—if GATT's proposed patents regime is approved.

At present, Indian law, for example, does not allow agricultural and medicinal products to be patented, but all this may soon have to change, if the GATT draft is approved by the Indian government. But, as multinational seed companies see farmer's rights to their own seeds as an obstacle to company marketing expansion, they fully expect that, under the GATT regulations, India will be forced to introduce such patents, or face retaliatory trade measures.

But Indian farmers are seen to be fighting back, for they have been staging a number of dramatic protests against GATT's proposed patenting measures. In August, 1993, for example, 40,000 farmers carrying neem branches as the symbol of their collective indigenous knowledge, demonstrated in the Southern Indian state of Karnataka and, in October of the same year, they launched the Third World Farmers' Movement Against Transnational

Corporations at a rally attended by over a million farmers. Northern environmentalists are giving all-out support to their struggle.

W.R. Grace and Co., one of the largest U.S. chemical companies, and Cargill, which controls 60 percent of the world trade in cereals, are under attack by Indian farmers for the threat they represent to their livelihoods. Grace is accused of infringing the intellectual property rights of millions of Indian peasants by taking out U.S. patents on pesticide products derived from the neem tree which has been used in India for centuries for a range of medicinal and agricultural purposes. Cargill is setting up a hybrid seed-processing complex in Karnataka, and has been singled out as one company which would flood the Indian market.

Third World farmers' groups argue that such a monopoly system of patents, combined with open access to markets, would only be of benefit to large corporate concerns and, in return, the Third World will get nothing for the knowledge which led to the development of patented products. Indian farmers are, therefore, protesting this and are proposing, instead, collective patents as an alternative form of intellectual property rights which would reward communities for their traditional knowledge of the uses of plants and animals.

With the recent instruction to grow neem trees in Bangladesh, a tree which has always been native to this part of the world, it would be more than a pity should people find that, after planting the trees, they discover their produce has already been patented by multi-national companies based in foreign countries and, as their intellectual property, we shall also have to pay royalties for their use.

India

Minister Rejects Opposition Charges on GATT

BK2204031094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] The commerce minister has refuted the opposition's allegation that the government has compromised on the sovereignty of the nation by signing the GATT agreement at Marrakesh.

Giving clarifications on the statements regarding the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations in Rajya Sabha today, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee asserted that the interest of the farmers and workers will not be affected by this treaty. Not satisfied with his clarification, almost the entire opposition staged a walkout, alleging that the government has bartered away the interests of the nation by signing the treaty.

Refuting the charges of the opposition that most of the foreign investment has come into the consumer sector, he said 90 percent of the investment has been made into the core sector. Denying the charges that the center did not consult the chief ministers before signing the accord, he said he had talks with several chief ministers, including some of the non-Congress-I governments.

Iranian, Indian Ministers Discuss GATT, Employment

BK2204041494 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Iran says it fully supports India's stand that social issues like labor should not be used to dilute the multilateral GATT treaty. The Iranian labor minister, Mr. Hoseyn Kamali, conveyed this to the labor minister, Mr. P.A. Sangma, during their meeting in New Delhi. They also discussed the forthcoming labor ministers conference of nonaligned countries where this issue will be taken up for discussion. The two sides reviewed issues connected with the employment of workers in each other's countries.

Resumption of Talks on Textiles With U.S. Welcomed

BK1904125494 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Commentary by Anjan Ray]

[Text] India's decision to resume bilateral talks with the United States on opening up the textiles market augurs optimism for higher trade. The U.S. announcement on withdrawal of all restrictions on imports of hand loom exports from India is a major gain for India. India on the other hand has agreed to dilute tariff barriers to entry of high-valued U.S. textile exports which will go a long way to meeting the American sensibilities about the textile trade. For even now, the textiles industry is a major source of employment generation in that country. In view of the importance of textiles for employment of U.S. labor, the United States had for the last decade been insisting on more gradual phasing out of the controversial Multi-Fiber Agreement—MFA—which tended to depress imports of textile items into the world's largest economy.

The MFA had imposed some arbitrary quotas on textiles exports from the manufacturing countries which India had always maintained was the subtraction from the rule-based trading regime. MFA is now proposed to be phased out in 10 years. Although the details of India's opening up of the textiles market to the United States has yet to be worked out, in a sense this should be of considerable importance. Currently Indian tariff on textile imports is around 85 percent and there are some quantitative restrictions besides. Under the commitment given now, India will be obliged to bring down the tariff rates and remove some of the quantitative restrictions. The areas of restrictions will to a large extent determine the possible volume of imports from the United States. The withdrawal of U.S. restrictions on Indian hand loom imports should certainly mean a major step up in activities in some segments of Indian hand loom industry. The textiles industry as a whole employs about 15

millions in India. The synthetic textile industry is capital intensive and, therefore, the employment generation in this sector is limited. On the other hand, rough and ready estimates indicate that the hand loom sector employs no less than 8 to 10 million workers and any increase in exports could bring about a significant improvement in their economic situation. Indeed, the cotton sector alone is expected to be the biggest beneficiary of any increase in exports since it is this item that accounts for nearly of the hand loom sector's exports. However, the bilateral concession to India on textiles is a just a windfall profit and demonstrates the negotiation skills of a team which had gone to Marrakesh for signing the agreement on completion of the Uruguay round.

There are some major differences with the United States over the general stand Washington has taken on multilateral issues relating to the new order. The United States had been in the vanguard of those developed countries which had demanded linking of social policy issues with trade policy. In effect, these countries are demanding that the labor standards, particularly the wage levels in the developing countries, should be taken into account in deciding the framework for conducting international trade. If these developed countries succeed, this would virtually take away the comparative advantage of the developing countries in the form of lower wages. The United States is advancing all this concern for labor in the name of raising standards of living in all countries. Its effect could be quite the contrary. The activist policies followed by the United States to shut out imports selectively from different countries, which it dislikes on some grounds or other, had been noticed even by many of the developed countries. In fact, the ministerial declaration on the accession to the Dunkel final act is carrying an exhortation to the effect that no signatory should take unilateral action which could jeopardize the flow of trade among the nations. This has obviously been introduced to discourage countries like the United States from using trade restrictive measures under its various omnibus legislations like Super 301 or Special 301 between now and the formation of the World Trade Organization.

Pakistani 'Propaganda' on Mission to Kashmir Rejected

BK2204021594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] India today rejected the Pakistani propaganda that the visit of the next group of ambassadors to Jammu and Kashmir is a fact-finding mission by Islamic countries. Expressing regret over the distorted projection by Islamabad, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman clarified in New Delhi that it is neither a group of ambassadors of Islamic countries nor is it in the nature of any fact-finding mission.

Task Force Agrees on Joint Projects With Nepal

BK1604165294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] India and Nepal have decided to accord priority to the completion of several road projects. The meeting of the India-Nepalese high level task force in New Delhi today also decided to expand the Bir Hospital in Nepal. The projects to be completed on a priority bases are 17 bridges on the Kolhapur-Badrapur Road and the Chatara-Birpur Road. The task force stressed the early completion of project reports on the Burhi Gandak and the Panchesh projects. The progress in these sectors will be reviewed by a secretary-level meeting next month. The task force also considered several new project proposals including the India-Nepal broad-gauge railway link from Raxaul to a point in Nepal. It expressed satisfaction over the progress of Indian-aided projects in Nepal. The high-level task force is headed by the principal secretary to the prime minister, Mr. A.N. Varma, and the chief secretary to the Government of Nepal, Mr. M.P. Gorkhali.

The Nepalese delegation today called on the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, and the minister of state, Mr. R.L. Bhatia. Mr. Dinesh Singh said there is significant potential for bilateral cooperation in the development of water resources. He lauded the work of the task force in ensuring successful completion of Indian-aided projects in Nepal.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has said India and Nepal should expedite all the agreed projects which symbolize the excellent cooperation between the two countries. Talking to members of the Nepalese delegation on the India-Nepal high-level task force, who called on him in New Delhi today, Mr. Rao described the relations between the two countries as close and friendly.

Iran

Bosnian Envoy Says Gorazde Fall 'Western Plot'

LD2104114394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] The Bosnian ambassador to Tehran has termed the fall of Gorazde a pre-planned Western plot. In an interview with our reporter, Mr. Omar Bahman emphasized that the UN and Security Council member countries, including Britain, France, and Russia were directly responsible for the massacre of Gorazde Muslims.

In reference to activities of the UN secretary general, he said: Butrus-Ghali and other UN officials are receiving huge salaries from the international budget to guard the interests of powerful countries.

The Bosnian ambassador also called on Islamic countries to show greater movement toward solving the Bosnian

crisis. Mr. Omar Bahman said: Islamic Conference Organization resolutions, much like UN resolutions, have remained as paper documents. He said that a number of Islamic countries, in particular Arab governments, which are similar to Western countries and act to deceive public opinion, support Bosnia only in words.

Thanking Tehran for its stance, the Bosnian ambassador said: The practical support provided by the people and government of Iran for the Bosnian nation was an appreciated reality.

Students Demonstrate Against UN 'Silence'

LD2104141794 Tehran IRNA in English 1151 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA—Thousands of pupils and high school students staged demonstrations outside the U.N. office in Tehran Thursday, condemning the silence of the U.N., its Security Council and other international bodies on the massacre of Muslims in Gorazde. Carrying placards and banners in condemnation of the crimes of Serbs, the demonstrators chanted slogans such as "Serbs are committing crimes, Washington is supporting them" and "Death to the Serbs." They also called for resignation of the U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

The students denounced the biased policies and shameful silence of western governments as well as the Security Council's negligence towards Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Similar demonstrations were held in front of the U.N. office by Iranian university students and in the holy city of Qom by ulama Wednesday in protest at the cold-blooded massacre of Muslims in Gorazde.

Commentary Assesses Clinton's Remarks on Gorazde

LD2104214194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary: "Clinton's Fresh Remarks on Bosnia"]

[Text] The U.S. President, Bill Clinton, addressing a press conference yesterday, said: We should force the Serbs to pay a high price for spilling blood and continuing their violence in Gorazde city. He said: The United States has asked NATO to use air power for returning peace and safety to other Bosnian regions declared as safehavens, including Gorazde, as had been done in the case of Sarajevo.

Clinton's fresh remarks have come at time when the United Nations and the Western governments have come under fire and criticism by the international community for the indifference vis-a-vis the Serbs' criminal attacks which led to the fall of Gorazde. The United Nations and NATO, which have carried out a belated and small-scale attack on two Serbian tanks around Gorazde during their so-called military operation involving one U.S. F-15 fighter plane after the Serb attacks and before the fall of Gorazde, actually gave a green light to the Serbs for escalating their attacks and capturing Gorazde. The same belated attack gave way to softness toward the Serbs in silence, coupled with satisfaction, following the protest lodged by the Russian Government which contained a clear threat.

Now that the international community is questioning the United Nations and the Western governments for their deceitful and betraying role in the fall of the 65,000-population city of Gorazde, the U.S. President, Bill Clinton, by expressing such remarks is trying to bring down the wrath and indignation of the world community. This is at time when certain pro-Serb elements in the U.S. Administration, such as Senator Joseph Biden, cannot hide the happiness they derive from the Serb victory.

Joseph Biden, the second influential man in the U.S. Democrat Party, speaking in the Foreign Relations Committee, had called for the whole withdrawal of the UN peacekeeping forces from the so-called safehavens, saying that let the Serbs and Muslims fight each other since war is the only way to reach a solution. In his yesterday's press conference, Clinton also said that the United States will step up its efforts for imposing sharper sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, the supporter of Bosnian Serbs. This is at a time when all the signs and evidence speak of the fact that Moscow and Washington have launched wide-scale efforts to relax international sanction against the confederation of Serbia and Montenegro, seeking the consents of some of the Western governments in this regard.

It should, therefore, be said that Clinton's new remarks stand in contradiction with the performance of his administration and that the White House tricks cannot lessen the degree of the crime of the United States, which culminated into the fall of Gorazde and the perpetuation of the genocide of Muslims by the Serbs in Bosnia.

'Saboteurs' From Iran Blamed for 19 Apr Bombing

LD2104131894 Tehran IRNA in English 1229 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA—Initial investigations into a bomb explosion in Tehran on Tuesday show that saboteurs infiltrating into Iran from Iraq were behind the blast, an informed source told IRNA Thursday. Members of Iraq-based terrorist Mujahideen Khalq Organization (MKO) have frequently used the bases and facilities put at their disposal by the Iraqi regime for carrying out terrorist acts inside Iran.

"Some clues have been obtained in connection with the bomb explosion at the corner of Sa'di and Enqelab streets (in central Tehran)," the source said.

Some 13 people were injured and five cars destroyed when a percussion bomb went off in rush hours Tuesday. A few hours after the bomb blast, the terrorist grouplet in a hasty reaction contacted the Italian news agency (ANSA), AFP and ASSOCIATED PRESS to deny its involvement in the terrorist act.

Over the past month, MKO in 23 radio contacts monitored by an IRNA office near Iran-Iraq border instructed its members to carry out sabotage and arson attacks on Iranian soil.

Commentary Notes 'Insane' Actions of Saddam Husayn

NC2104183794 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 9 Apr 94 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "Saddam's Insane Actions as He Nears the End"]

[Excerpts] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is nearing the end of his rule and this is linked directly to the West's support for his opponents. Despite their promises, the Western countries refrained—overtly and disastrously—from supporting the uprising of the deprived people against Saddam, thus thwarting its success. If the opponents of the Iraqi regime were to seriously help them, Saddam's downfall would be very near.

Commenting on the 'Id al-Fitr address by Saddam Husayn on Iraqi television, GUARDIAN correspondent David Hearst wrote that Saddam showed clear signs of weakness and exhaustion which, according to one of Saddam's advisers, had never been perceived before. This unnamed high-level adviser who has joined the enemy camp expressed concern that since Saddam can now see the end of his tenure approaching, he may well do something insane like his attack on Iran or the occupation of Kuwait.

Saddam's demented and heretical actions and his sense of the approaching end of his power may motivate him to attack the Kurd-inhabited safe havens in the north, the oil-rich southern areas of Kuwait, or even sensitive regions, including Saudi territory.

The first scenario would not prove very beneficial for him, because of the aerial and military protection by the Western countries for the Kurd-inhabited areas. In the event he attacks the southern areas, it is possible that he could use them as a lever to gain concessions from the Arab countries of the region, Kuwait in particular. [passage omitted]

Saddam's personal health and poor morale aside, David Hearst believes that the UN embargoes against Iraq have undermined the administrative and political setup more than the financial and economic sectors, which will eventually result in this country's foundations degenerating from within. Saddam Husayn referred to the economic embargoes more than any other issue in his 'Id al-Fitr address.

Saddam had hoped to forge better relations once Clinton was in power, considering his hostility to former U.S. President George Bush. He also hoped to gain U.S. consent for the economic sanctions to be reduced. He has failed in this and has been forced to look to Russia, the PRC, and France for trade and investments.

As a result of the current economic pressure the exchange rate of the Iraqi dinar, which is officially three dinars to the dollar, rose from 80 dinars to the dollar in the open market last year to the present 350-to-one. Even the newspaper BABIL, which is run by Saddam's son 'Udayy, has predicted that soon the dollar will rise to 500 dinars.

On the other hand, more than $7.540 billion is being spent by the Iraqi government for essential goods and foodstuffs for the people, and then doled out in meager rations. Iraq gets $1.25 billion per annum from illegal and covert exports, which it uses mainly to buy weapons and advanced military equipment. It is said that Iraq has built up its military capability to 80 percent of what it was before the occupation of Kuwait.

In his report, David Hearst concludes that if the city of al-Basrah were to be transformed into a safe haven similar to the Kurdish-inhabited areas in northern Iraq, Saddam's rule would end much sooner. Referring to the deployment of the Presidential Guard to the southern areas of Iraq, Hearst predicts that an attack on the south and the Persian Gulf region is a possibility which Saddam might insanely embark upon as his regime approaches its end.

Further on IAEA Director's Visit, Comments

Blix Interviewed

LD2004201394 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in English 1815 GMT 20 Apr 94

["Exclusive interview" with Hans Blix, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, by unidentified correspondent at Tehran's' Mehrabad airport on 20 April—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Blix, were any major achievements accomplished during your talks with the Iranian officials?

[Blix] Well, I came here to discuss first of all the arrangements of verification under a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. And of course, Iran was one of the first countries in the world to endorse this idea and I think we have created more understanding for the techniques and the system of verification that the agency offers now and the kind of enhanced verification system that would be needed under a zone. So I think we have accomplished what we hope to do, to spread better knowledge.

[Correspondent] A few countries, and Israel in particular, have not yet signed the Nonproliferation Treaty

[NPT]. Does not this refusal to sign the treaty threaten the international and regional peace and stability?

[Blix] Well, I think the ambition should be that all countries which do not have nuclear weapons should join a nonproliferation treaty, either the NPT or the Tlatelolco Treaty for Latin America. We have seen a great deal of progress in the past few years. Argentina and Brazil have joined, South Africa has joined the Nonproliferation Treaty, Algeria has declared that it will join.

[Correspondent] And finally, could you tell us about the IAEA's efforts to make a nuclear-free world, sir?

[Blix] Well, it would be a little presumptuous to say that we are sort of instrumental in creating a nuclear-weapon-free world, but what I can say is that I think there is reason for a great deal of optimism at the present time after the end of the Cold War. We have seen how the United States and Russia have now agreed to reduce their nuclear arsenals from some 65,000 warheads to 3,000 each. We can expect that there will be a treaty which will prohibit the production of nuclear material for weapons purposes and which very likely will lead to all the nuclear weapon states and India, Pakistan, and Israel submitting all their nuclear installations to agency verification. We can expect, perhaps within one year, a complete test ban agreement so that new nuclear weapons cannot be even tested underground. So there is, and added to that then, the possibility of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. I think that we are taking giant steps towards a world, not free from nuclear weapons, but at least much freer from it than it is now. And for a world really free of nuclear weapons I think we must also foresee a much stronger United Nations and a much stronger security organization and that will not come about in one year or perhaps even 10 years, but will take a longer time. But there is ground for a lot of optimism at the present time and of course for us in the IAEA, although we are not the negotiating parties, the verification of all these agreements will be a very important factor. And I think we have acquired a lot of experience in the many years of this and we stand ready to take on these jobs.

[Correspondent] Thanks Dr. Blix for joining the IRIB English news.

Rowhani Criticizes 'Propaganda'

LD2004221194 Tehran IRNA in English 2142 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Majles Vice-Speaker Hasan Rowhani last night blasted big powers' malicious propaganda on the use of atomic energy in Iran.

Rowhani made the remark in a meeting with the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Hans Blix who arrived here Monday on a 4-day visit.

Rowhani deplored that countries such as Iran which have "excellent and positive cooperation" with the agency and its inspectors have repeatedly verified the peaceful use of atomic energy, continue to suffer from the propaganda pressures of big powers.

While, he added, those countries which are neither a member of the IAEA nor cooperate with, it have remained immune from the pressures.

Rowhani said Iran has made investments to use atomic energy for peaceful purpose and to develop its technology.

Due to the existing political pressures, he said, certain countries that own the technology refrain from active cooperation with Iran and completion of their projects here.

Blix for his part referred to Iran's cooperation with the agency and said nuclear disarmament in the Middle East and the world was among the goals of the agency.

He said the regional countries are expected to have serious cooperation in this connection.

Blix praised the coopertion of Iranian officials with the agency as a sign of their feeling responsibility towards peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Commentary Views Visit

LD2004225194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Mr. Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, is currently in Tehran on a visit for holding talks on cooperation between the agency and Iran's Atomic Energy Organization. During his visit to Tehran, Mr. Hans Blix and his team—besides inspecting Iran's nuclear facilities and holding talks with Dr. Reza Amrollahi, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization—also met with Iran's first vice president and foreign minister.

Periodic visits of the IAEA experts to nuclear installations of its member states take place on a regular basis. For this reason the trip of Mr. Hans Blix to Tehran too has pursued the same goal. The visit of the IAEA experts to Iran is also significant because it gives an opportunity to Iran's officials to express the views and to confer on important regional and international issues related to nuclear energy. For this standpoint, during the meeting of the IAEA chief with Iran's first vice president and foreign minister, the country's views on the need for the peaceful use of nuclear energy were reiterated.

The Iranian officials, meanwhile, have not missed mentioning the point that—notwithstanding the false propaganda of the West, especially the U.S., about Iran's nuclear program—it is the Israeli regime's indifference

toward observing the principle of nuclear nonproliferation that is posing a real threat to peace and security in the Middle East. At any rate, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the peaceful use of nuclear energy—which in the modern world has various applications in the fields of medicine, industry, and research—should be recognized as a natural right of all the world countries and that nuclear technology should not be allowed to become a political tool for putting pressure against any country.

Undoubtedly the responsibility that the world bodies, especially the IAEA, have in this connection demands that the agency should deal with various countries on equal footings insofar as nuclear arms control is concerned. This is essential because only then one can speak with greater certainty about the various countries' cooperation with the IAEA programs and the positive reports of the organization experts about countries, including Iran—those having continuing cooperation with the agency—can be used in the international community in a desirable manner.

Downing of U.S. Helicopters in Iraq Assessed

NC2204082894 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 19 Apr 94 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S. Military Confused"]

[Text] On Thursday, two American helicopters were shot down by two American F-15 jets killing 26 American and allied personnel in what has been termed a 'friendly fire' disaster in northern Iraq.

The incident raises a question. Had the two American helicopters been downed by Iraqi aircraft what would have been the consequences? Answer—disastrous. By now, Pentagon would have mobilized allied support and once again we would have witnessed a display of American military machismo with innocent Iraqi citizens being the target of relentless hellfire of the allied war machine.

Though the blunder has shaken up the whole Clinton administration, outwardly it has managed to remain calm and unperturbed by issuing the usual, monotonous statements of "working as quickly as possible to complete the investigation into how the accident happened," and offering the perfunctory condolences to the families of the victims.

It's only when Americans erroneously kill their compatriots or get killed by the enemy that it becomes an eye-opener for U.S. policy makers to review their rules of engagements in military operations abroad. The rules defining when U.S. forces can attack enemies have now been tightened.

Last year's missile attack on the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad over the 'Bush kill plot' controversy, is still fresh in the mind. President Bill Clinton, just a few months in office when he ordered the surprise missile attack, was bubbling with confidence. Now after a series of foreign policy and military faux pas we see a Clinton deflated and the American people demoralized over Washington's foreign policy.

Human errors made at the lower levels are a reflection of bigger blunders committed by the top brass. The American military has become overbearing, insufferable and bumptious just like its leadership. Its aggressive attitude towards the 'enemy'—to kill rather than counter—has made even missions, supposedly altruistic, into bungling operations, nullifying their very purpose.

In this case, even presuming that the helicopters had been Iraqi, it would not have justified shooting them down, without any provocation. During the three years the allied forces have been monitoring the no-fly zone, in northern Iraq, no Iraqi aircraft have been sighted as far north in the no-fly zone, as the U.S. Blackhawks were.

When it comes to firing at the enemy, the normal international flight procedures and safety rules are completely violated. Nay, they don't exist at all for the American military forces. Recall how they downed an Iran Air flight to Dubai in July 1988 by "erroneously" identifying it an enemy aircraft? And in October 1992, the U.S. aircraft carrier Saratoga fired a missile at the Turkish destroyer Muavenet, killing five Turks including the captain?

U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry admits that half a dozen procedures should have been in place to have prevented the latest 'friendly fire' tragedy, while General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff says the F-15 pilots were not required to get clearance before firing their missiles at the 'enemy'. Which all goes to show that the top officials themselves are foggy about the rules governing such eventualities.

Editorial on 'Continued Severance' of Ties With U.S.

NC2004202994 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 10 Apr 94 pp 1, 2

[Editorial by 'Ali Feyzi: "A Political Taboo"]

[Text] One of the most revolutionary actions after the victory of the Islamic revolution was the severance of relations with the United States. However, the fact is that we have not yet fully realized the importance of this action. What were the intended objectives, implications, dimensions, and extent of this action? Does the mere severance of diplomatic relations survive in isolation, without its perspective within the overall concept of domination? Can this conform to the original objectives? The breaking of relations should be viewed in all its aspects; diplomatic relations cannot be segregated from economic and trade relations. Those who blindly insist on the continued severance of diplomatic relations are as ignorant as those who are covertly striving to patch them up. They do not realize the true significance of severing these relations nor that the issue cannot be confined to

the political arena, for that would be a blatant contradiction of its purpose. Now that there are no relations between Iran and the United States there are irrefutable signs of increased economic relations. Even though in most cases direct economic ties have been obstructed, the transactions take place through middlemen. Hence, one must view the profits and losses of these indirect deals.

If we are realistic, we will clearly see that the goods that reach us in these deals already cost 10 to 20 percent more and the countries that act as intermediaries also take a cut at our expense. The American companies do not seem dissatisfied with this state of affairs because their third country partners take their share from Iran. In the case of countries such as Turkey, which is facing major financial difficulties, these indirect U.S.-Iran transactions are extremely favorable.

Therefore, contrary to Ayatollah Azeri-Qomi's remarks that the murmurings of relations with the United States stem from a lack of taste on the part of some officials, these murmurings are in fact realities resulting from the absence of a specific economic policy.

In the current circumstances, no one desires diplomatic relations with the United States, which maintains policies hostile to the Islamic Revolution. However, those who issue licenses to facilitate the entry of American products into the country will sooner or later find themselves forced to defend the forging of diplomatic relations. We must tell these gentlemen clearly: It is not possible to continue advertising for Coca Cola and General Electric in the most revolutionary newspapers while simultaneously defending the severance of diplomatic relations.

Such a blatant contradiction is detrimental to our national interests. The United States does not dominate solely through its embassies all over the world. Coca Cola and General Electric are their vanguards, and economic and trade domination precedes political domination. Those who have turned a blind eye to the uncontrolled entry of American commodities into our country will sooner or later have to face the reality that political relations will consequently become necessary. Has adequate attention been paid to this issue?

How will it be possible to profess that we do not want relations with the United States when a large part of the consumer market is controlled by American companies? A dual approach to a phenomenon that is intrinsically unitary will not resolve the problem. The Islamic Revolution should adhere to the concept of not having relations with the United States, but in our opinion, the Iranian consumer market, to which the United States fervently wants to return, is more important.

A glance at the shelves of the markets that have mushroomed since the revolution and have sprung up even in the smallest cities will show that the most substandard products from various parts of the world can be found in these boutiques [preceding word in English]. American goods may not be the most prevalent in these shopping centers, but they are certainly no fewer than those from other countries. A cultural movement can only reach fruition when it does not lose sight of its objectives or degenerate into a mere cultural quirk. Have our officials and our nation embraced the belief that they should not use American goods?! Such claims do not appear logical and the converse is clearly evident in our society.

The dissemination of information in our society is quite rudimentary, but even so, it is quite eloquent even at this level. If one were to intensively examine the Iranian-German talks on the reimbursement of outstanding sums, one would recall how vehemently the United States protested to Germany for not coordinating with it on exerting pressure on Iran. The United States was unable to answer one German official's justification of his government's policy. He attributed the situation to the pillaging of Iranian foreign exchange by American companies, and we maintained our poised silence in this altercation.

At the same time, there were rumors all over the world that the United States wanted to increase pressure on Iran and urged its allies not to conclude agreements with Iran. Current developments—which our Central Bank is proclaiming with much fanfare as a major victory for public consumption—are in fact another trap to make us become so indebted that we will have no room left to maneuver. The transformation of short-term loans to long-term loans is not an art discovered for the first time by the authors of our economic adjustments.

In any case, it will not make much difference whether a debtor country has relations with the United States or not, or continues to remain estranged. For as long as we do not approach these issues in an honest and realistic manner, vacillations in our foreign policies are inevitable, regardless of whether anyone is ready to accept them or not.

'Hostile' U.S. Policy Said Harming Reconciliation Hopes

NC2204082994 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 18 Apr 94 p 2

[Editorial: "A Failure for Containment"]

[Text] If the news going around in recent months are any indication, there have been changes, if not drastic ones, taking place in Iran's credit rating in international financial circles.

The breakthrough came with Germany and Japan, Iran's biggest trading partners in the industrial world. The two countries agreed in March to provide Iran with some $4.6b [billion] in credits, reportedly about half of its outstanding debts. According to Iran's Central Bank, an Iranian banking delegation signed a $2b deal in Tokyo with a Japanese consortium, preceded by another one with Germany, two weeks earlier, for $2.6b.

The agreements with the above two countries were soon followed by two others with Switzerland and Austria in the amount of some one billion dollars. The credits are to be used for payment of delayed Iranian letters of credit held by businessmen in those two countries.

A similar agreement covering an $800m [million] credit line was signed with Italy not long ago. And based on announcements by the Central Bank governor, discussions are underway for similar agreements with Spain, France, Belgium and Netherlands.

Economic experts both here in Iran and internationally regard the above agreements, and the ones likely to follow, as major success by Iran. If anything, these credits were instrumental in halting the growing value of foreign exchange in the Iranian money markets. The understanding with Germany and Japan also served as a forerunner and it was as a consequence of the agreements with these two trading partners, and their confidence in Iran's economic stamina, that other similar agreements with European partners followed.

The willingness by Germany and Japan, as leading industrial countries, to grant credits to Iran means that they are wise and pursue independent policies, and that they understand the delicacy of the Iranian economic situation. Iran's present economic crunch produced as a consequence of low crude oil prices, and the war can happen to any country, as it did to both Japan and Germany following the WWII.

The Clinton administration has taken pride in the fact that it does not lack a clear foreign policy towards Iran. Having identified Iran as a significant threat to America's interests in the Persian Gulf region, the administration has tried to deal with those threats by isolating Iran regionally, and by cutting it off from the world economic and trading systems. Based on this containment policy Washington has made efforts to persuade its European allies and those in the industrial world to deny Iran access to international capital.

In view of Washington's hostile policy towards Iran, the agreements by Iran with its credit-extending partners can be interpreted in two ways: That the US containment policy towards Iran has failed, or realization of the fact that putting pressure on Iran would not be in the best long term interests of US and Iran's trading partners in the industrial world.

Agreements with a host of industrial countries led by Germany and Japan, US closest allies, cannot be interpreted but that the US policy towards Iran has failed. Iran is not a tiny Persian Gulf country the US would be able to isolate readily. It is an important country geopolitically whether they like it or not. And if anything such hostile policies as practiced by the US towards Iran, alluded to last Wednesday by the leader of the Islamic Republic in his meeting with armed forces officials, can only serve make Iran more "radical", if it is any now. [sentence as published] It also means the industrial countries would not hesitate to follow their own interest if serious conflicts with Washington emerge.

The US containment policy and its consequent pressure on the Iranian economy, the brunt of which would be felt by the vulnerable masses, can also make the possibility of any eventual reconciliation between the two countries even more difficult and distant.

Commentary Says U.S. 'Disrupting' Security

NC1804164194 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 10 Apr 94 p 16

[Political commentary: "An Address to the U.S. Secretary of State"]

[Text] While attending the COCOM [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] session in The Hague to discuss changing the system for controlling military exports, U.S. Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Affairs Lynn Davis said Iran had disrupted world security.

She said: In view of the collapse of the Eastern communist blocs, the United States and its Western allies must pay greater attention to the regulations controlling exports of military and other advanced equipment to "rebellious" countries including Iran!

Who is disrupting world security? Which are the "rebellious" countries? These are the questions which plague the minds of people around the world.

The answer is clear. The United States and the domineering powers of the world have drawn specific boundaries for the purpose of pillaging the countries of the world. Then they declare that whoever does not officially recognize these boundaries is disrupting world security and is an rebel!

Following the demise of the Soviet Union, with the changed political geography, these people congregated at the COCOM session in order to identify the rebels and those who disrupt world security!

It is natural for those who have been constantly seeking to gorge themselves for the past century to introduce distinctive terminology into the political lexicon. They think that whatever they believe in will be officially recognized by all the people of the world.

The people of the world wish to know: Fifty years ago, a handful of terrorists came to what is now occupied Palestine, killed the people, made them homeless, and established a black-hearted dictatorial government. If they were not rebels, what were they?!

The people of the world ask: In an African country such as Algeria, when a democratic government based on the will of the people is formed, why does a sinister coup d'etat have the support of international despots, while the leaders of the people are thrown into dungeons?

The people of the world ask: When Muslims are victorious in Turkish municipal elections, why is a crisis desk set up in Washington?

The people of the world ask: Why do we see in the heartland of Europe the most shameful violations of human rights? And the Serbs are still continuing their aggression under the auspices of the Western powers, so why does no one label them as rebels or say they are disrupting world security?

The people of the world want to know: When a number of oppressed people are offering their morning prayers in the auspicious month of Ramadan in the al-Khalil mosque and they are gunned down with impunity, who is the rebel and who is disrupting world security?

If, according to the U.S. under secretary for arms control and international security affairs, the volume of advanced military equipment is the criterion, and its production and exports should be controlled, then the United States, Britain, France, and others who have the largest nuclear arsenals should be declared the greatest threat to world security and the most notorious of international rebels.

President Receives Libyan Official, Message

LD2104114194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Colonel Mustafa al-Karrubi, member of the Libyan leadership council, was received today by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to whom he presented a written message from the Libyan leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Conveying Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's warm greetings to our country's president, Mr. Karrubi said the aim of his trip to Iran is to find ways of deepening fraternal relations between Iran and Libya and to activate the joint commission in order to increase the volume of economic and trade exchanges between the two countries.

He reported on the political and economic situation in Libya and said: The political and economic sanctions imposed on Libya by some Western countries are unjust and violate international law.

For his part, Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed gratitude for the Libyan leader's friendly message. He said relations and cooperation between the two countries is at a good level and emphasized the need to expand them.

Referring to the political and economic pressure of world arrogance against independence-seeking countries, the president said the path of independence and refusal to surrender to the bullying which dominates the international order is filled with difficulties but leads to desirable results.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also emphasized the need for a peaceful and just solution, through international organizations, to the existing differences between Libya and some Western countries.

Aid Convoy Leaves for Azerbaijani Border

LD2104201294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] A convoy of relief aid for the Republic of Azerbaijan's Muslim refugees, comprising 36 trucks, today left the border post at Parsabad, in Moghan. This is the third convoy of aid sent by the Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

According to an IRNA report the convoy is carrying 170 tonnes of potatoes, 150 tonnes of flour, 1,000 blankets, 500 stoves and other facilities. The total value of the aid is 130 million rials. The relief aid dispatched to the Republic of Azerbaijan was collected by the imam relief committees in the provinces of Gilan, East Azarbaijan and Ardebil.

Australian Ambassador Comments on Trade Balance

LD2104163794 Tehran IRNA in English 1458 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Tabriz, E. Azerbaijan, April 21, IRNA—Volume of Trade exchanges between Iran and Australia reached dlrs. [dollars] 400 million last year, Australian Ambassador to Tehran Nicolas Warner told IRNA here Wednesday [20 April].

Warner said during the period Iran's non-oil exports to Australia stood at dlrs. 25 million, up by 40 percent as compared with the amount of the preceding year. The exported commodities mainly included dried fruit and carpet, he added.

Australia has made some efforts to reduce the negative balance in the two countries' trade exchanges through organizing trade fairs and seminars for the Iranian exporters in several Australian cities.

Noting that Iran mainly imported wheat, meat and telecommunication equipment from Australia, Warner said his country had allocated dlrs. 750 million in credit for the Iranian importers in an effort to further consolidate mutual industrial and trade cooperation.

The ambassador visited this northwestern Iranian city to explore the grounds for the promotion of commercial cooperation between the provincial units and country.

Daily Examines Actions of Islamic Resistance Group

LD2104090594 Tehran IRNA in English 0803 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA—A morning English daily here Thursday [21 April] pointed to the escalated attacks by the Hamas freedom movement against the Zionists in recent weeks and said that Israel should face up to the fact that Hamas is a Palestinian reality which aims to blow up the Gaza-Jericho "Trojan horse."

The only success of the Gaza-Jericho accord is that it has changed the nature of the 46 years of anti-Zionist struggle from demanding total independence to seeking partial autonomy, said the 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial. It noted that the armed struggle against Israel by Hamas was the result of the world community's inability and unwillingness to end the illegal presence of Zionists in Palestine. Armed attacks of Hamas are a natural and justified reaction to Israel's intransigence, said the paper, adding that the Zionists had showen repeatedly that the only language they understand "comes from the barrel of a gun."

The basic stand of Hamas stemed from religious beliefs, and war was not considered sacred to Hamas, but was used as a means to achieve an end, it noted.

The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) "can give away the rights of its followers by signing the Gaza-Jericho accord. But, by the same token, Hamas has as much right to choose the path of its struggle against the Zionist occupiers," it said. The daily concluded by saying that Palestinians desired justice more than they need peace and Hamas held the view that peace without reinstatement of full Palestinians rights, was not preferable to war.

Larijani on Impact of Israel's Entry Into Gulf

NC2104204394 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 7 Apr 94 p 16

[From the "Weekly Political Newsletter" by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, Tehran Majles deputy and head of the Islamic Majles Foreign Affairs Committee: "Stupidity"]

[Text] 1. Two important issues were discussed at the recent meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers. One was how Israel would be permitted entry into the region, and the other was what policy these countries would adopt toward Iraq. It is interesting to note that the two issues are ultimately interrelated!

2. The United States is closely following the issue of Israel's entry into the region and Israel is also awaiting the decision impatiently. During the course of the current talks, Israel will only take steps to help it make major gains toward an extensive presence in the Arab (and Islamic) world, especially in the Persian Gulf region!

3. Why should Israel enter the Persian Gulf region? It is obvious that the various parties involved would supply different answers to this question. For Israel, it is an opening to the Arab and Islamic world, in addition to the immense oil resources. The people in these regional countries have not evolved any cohesive national identity; they are merely naturalized in those countries, which were born from the unclean womb of British colonialism. Even today, their affairs are directed by other hands. This is why entry into this region is easier than into Egypt, Syria, Algeria, or similar countries.

It was a great achievement for the United States to keep the current regime in Iraq in the present disgraceful circumstances. Every time the U.S. wishes to intimidate the regional rulers and to shovel in their wealth, it just smiles in the direction of the Iraqi regime and this immediately instills fear in the regional rulers and gives them nightmares. The statement issued at the latest GCC foreign ministers' session in Riyadh clearly shows their psychological state.

In other words, what has transpired in Iraq has not only destroyed the longstanding prestige and sovereignty of that country, but has also dragged the entire Arab region of the Persian Gulf into the jaws of the United States.

4. This fragile status quo is fraught with danger, and it can very easily get out of control, as in Somalia. Therefore, the Zionists are to be brought in in order to help stabilize conditions in the region. In other words, the Zionist element will have to do the following:

First: Prevent all ties between the regional Arab countries and Iran.

Second: Keep a watchful eye on conditions in Iraq and escalate dangerous crises!

Third: Plan and direct changes in the regional governments, particularly in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

In my view, this is the minimum that the United States expects from Israel. It is obvious that extensive benefits from generous "pockets" and unlimited resources of the region will accrue to the United States.

5. What is the outlook for the future? The Islamic world will never accept the Zionist entity. Even if this element is forcibly thrust down its throat today, it will be spat out even more forcefully tomorrow or in the near future! This trend can be easily perceived in the nexus of the deep and extensive social and political events currently taking place in the Islamic world.

If our friends in the Persian Gulf littoral countries are prudent and rely on expediency instead of being willful, they will realize that paving the way for Israel's ingress into the region would be tantamount to striking at their

own roots! They will not only be consigning the region's resources to destruction but their own existence as well! Why have you let Zionism dominate the House of God and now strive to pave the way further? Regardless of religious considerations, have you even thought about preserving your own power?

Saudi Arabia, U.S. Criticized for Causing 'Discord'

NC1504164394 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 4 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Saudi Arabia—a Danger-Generating Center in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] The news organizations affiliated with Saudi Arabia have once again postponed any decision to improve relations with Iran and to resolve differences between Abu Dhabi and Iran. These organizations, which are mostly under the influence of Zionist groups, have once again propounded the perpetual claims of the United States and the Zionist regime based on Iran's military presence in the strategic regions of the Persian Gulf. These claims have been made repeatedly by Western and Zionist circles.

Despite such claims, Iran has always been in favor of an amicable settlement of its differences with its southern neighbors, including the United Arab Emirates. Good-neighborliness, assistance in adopting a regional policy, and the elimination of the danger of domination by foreigners are integral and strategic parts of Iran's policy, which is being misconstrued by the United States as a lessening of its vital interests.

In addition to these claims, what contributes to major dangers in the Persian Gulf is the presence of deep-rooted territorial disputes among the regional Arab countries, which stem from their thirst for power, affiliation with arrogant powers of the world, and the influence of these arrogant powers. Conspicuous examples are Iraq's attack on Iran and later on Kuwait. The Persian Gulf region has been transformed into a potential center of tension because of Saudi Arabia's extensive dependence on the anti-Islamic and antipopular policies of the United States.

It is under these circumstances that Saudi Arabia has embarked on expanding these baseless claims and exacerbating the territorial claims that are exactly what the enemies of the region and Islam want.

According to political experts, countries that strive to preserve flash points and expand baseless territorial claims are most certainly acting against their own interests. The proliferation of artificial crises in the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf is the long-term strategy of the greater powers, the United States in particular, who wants to consolidate its position on this basis. By implementing this divisive strategy, the West has managed to transform a potentially dangerous union of these countries—which would be opposed to Western interests—into a subtle hostility against one another.

By creating doubts and apprehension among the regional countries, the United States is seeking the necessary pretexts for its greater presence and more overt interference, which is against the interests of countries in the region. This has been made possible by the servile Saudi rulers, who are now accusing Iran to justify their own actions. It is by realizing this tangible fact that Iran should adopt a strategic policy to expose these suspicious and dangerous moves and should refrain from needlessly pandering to the power- seeking Saudi rulers. Unfortunately, we have not developed a clear course of action regarding Saudi Arabia's political, discord-generating moves and this has resulted in making the Saudi rulers more audacious and arrogant than ever before.

Monetary, Banking Regulations for Free Zones Approved

NC2004064594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Monetary and banking regulations for the country's free trade zones have been approved, and the import of goods that are not illegal will be free without any limitations in the free trade zones. This was stated by Alviri, secretary of the Supreme Council for Free Trade and Industrial Zones, in an exclusive interview with our correspondent. Alviri added: The import of goods from the free trade zones to other parts of the country will be subject to import-export regulations.

He described the monetary and banking regulations that were approved by the Supreme Council for Free Trade and Industrial Zones yesterday as one of the most important procedural regulations of the law on free trade zones. He said: Domestic banks as well as domestic and foreign credit establishments can be either set or open branches in these zones, while foreign banks can only have branches in these zones.

The secretary of the Supreme Council for Free Trade and Industrial Zones also stated that the Iranian banks should have an initial capital of at least 5 billion rials, while foreign credit establishments should have at least $4 million to be established in these zones. Alviri added: Domestic banks and branches of foreign banks can carry out off-shore banking activities, which are solely foreign exchange transactions and will be exempt from the regulations and laws that apply inside the country.

Alviri added: The banks in the free trade zones should clarify their situation within a period of six months or conform their articles of association with the banking and monetary regulations that apply to these regions. Commenting on the foreign exchange system that will apply in these areas, he said:

[Begin Alviri recording] Another noteworthy point is the existence of a single-parity rate in the free trade zone. This means that we will not have one rate announced by the Central Bank and another rate that is the free market rate. There will be a single parity rate system. In other words, the foreign exchange market in the free trade zones will adjust its rate on the basis of supply and demand. This will be the official rate inside the free trade zones and the basis on which all the banks will carry out their transactions. [end recording]

Measures To Improve Defense Capabilities Seen

NC2204083094 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 16 Apr 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Arms Self-Sufficiency"]

[Text] Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the superpowers have incessantly mobilized all their resources to weaken and eventually, if possible, to help topple the newly-born regime in Iran.

At first they used their local agents to disturb the peace and tranquility in every corner of this country from Kordestan to Gorgan and Khuzestan. Unable to use ethnic differences to have them fight against one another because of their Islamic sense of brotherhood and equality principle, in which all Muslim Iranians believe regardless of their ethnic backgrounds, the arrogant powers decided to arm to the teeth the Iraqi army for their malicious purposes.

Despite the support provided by the West and the former East as well as all the rich Arab shaykhdoms of the Persian Gulf, the Iraqi regime failed to accomplish its mission. Eight years of sacred defense and self-sacrifice by the Iranian combatants, foiled the efforts of superpowers to overthrow the Islamic regime.

Although their plots have been futile so far, however, the arrogant powers' conspiracies have not ended and it does not seem they will give up any time soon. Indeed, as the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamene'i, said in his Wednesday meeting with the commanders of the Army, Navy and the Air Force, the Iranian armed forces should be alert and vigilant, because the enemy is "wounded and dangerous".

If in 1980 Iraq's excuse for imposing war on Iran was its sovereignty claim over Arvand River, who knows, may be one day the arrogant powers decide to use the issue of the three Persian Gulf islands as an excuse to meddle in the internal affairs of the region's countries.

The Iraqi-imposed war taught us a lesson to remember. We must break the chains of dependency on all fields, in particular, in as far as the military technology and training are concerned. While the former regime's armed forces heavily depended on American and British military advisers and hardware, the Islamic Republic Armed Forces are working to become self-sufficient in all terms possible.

The Iranian news agency IRNA reported Friday that an Iranian manufactured tank named Iran Leopard was combat-tested by the Self-Sufficiency Jehad Department of the armed forces. The tank has been designed in such a way so as to have more maneuvering power than those employed by other countries' and costs one third its foreign-made counterpart. The good news came at the time that the Iranian armed forces are preparing to celebrate the Army Day (Monday April 18.)

While other countries of the Middle East depend on foreign military technology, Iranian armed forces, are doing their best to design and manufacture a tank suitable for the country's terrain and weather conditions. This is not only a big achievement but also a major step forward toward improving Iran's defense capabilities.

Nepal & Bhutan

Prime Minister Leaves for Medical Checkup in U.S.

BK2204065894 Hong Kong AFP in English 0625 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Kathmandu, April 22 (AFP)—Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala left for Washington on Friday [22 April] to undergo a medical checkup, foreign ministry officials said here.

Koirala, who is is accompanied by sister-in-law Nona Koirala, his physician and others, will be examined at the Walter Reed Hospital near Washington.

The 72-year-old premier is scheduled to return within the next two weeks if there are no problems, officials said.

Koirala, who faces mounting pressure from within his party to quit, fainted twice times in public in the past six weeks. Doctors attributed the spells to low blood pressure and physical exhaustion.

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Denies U.S. Seeking Military Bases

BK2104151094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] The National Assembly was informed today that the government has again raised with the French Government the issue of the supply of the nuclear power plant to Pakistan. Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, in a written reply to a question, described as false the rumors that the United States has sought Pakistan's permission for establishing military bases. He said there is no question whatsoever of any commitment from Pakistan's side to the United States to set up military bases here.

In reply to a question by Mian Abdul Waheed, the foreign minister said spares of the defense equipment, including the F-16's, are being purchased from the United States on commercial basis due to the Pressler Amendment.

Bhutto Urges UN Security Council To Act Against Serbs

BK2104152994 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Pakistan has called upon the UN Security Council to act quickly to save the victims of Serbian genocide and immediate withdrawal of Serbian forces from Gorazde.

In an urgent message sent to the UN Secretary General, Dr. Butrus Ghali, today from Bonn, the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, said the agony of Gorazde is infinitely worsening the sufferings in Sarajevo. She said we share the anger and despair of the Bosnian leadership after the apathy of the UN on the world community. She hoped the Security Council will quickly approve Pakistan's resolution demanding air strikes against the Serbian artillery and withdrawal of Serbian forces from Gorazde. The Council must act quickly, she emphasized.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said the world community must wake up to the warning bell sounded by the vicious war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. She said Pakistan feels strongly that maintaining the unjust arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina means to assuming a share in the responsibility for the plight of the defenseless people. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said to allow the Serbs to succeed in Gorazde will severely and perhaps irretrievably erode the credibility of the United Nations and compromise its vision of collective security. She said it will represent a leap backwards to the law of force and away from our aspirations for a world ruled by the forces of law.

Bhutto on Bosnia, Kashmir, Nuclear Policy

AU2104113094 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 21 Apr 94 p 10

[Interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by Wolfgang Koydl in Germany; date not given: "Our Only Security Is Nuclear Technology"]

[Text] [Bhutto] The last time I was in Germany was 28 years ago. However, despite the Wall, the Cold War, and the bipolar world I realized even at that time that Germany was a country with industrious people who work hard, and would, therefore, emerge as an important factor in the world at some time. I see that this is happening now. I have come to Germany to discuss the international situation with the chancellor, with a particular focus on Kashmir and Bosnia. In addition, I talked with him about closer cooperation in the field of industrialization. I explained the overall situation to him, because Pakistan has an agreement with the IMF and the World Bank and has now embarked upon a solid economic path. In this connection, I expressed my interest in Hermes guarantees to the chancellor. You see, German companies have invested so much in Russia—without success. Now they should invest in Pakistan—with far more success. The World Bank has called Pakistan one of the seven most important capital markets of the future, and there are enormous possibilities, in particular in the fields of energy and communications.

[Koydl] Let us come to Bosnia. A few weeks ago you visited Sarajevo together with your Turkish counterpart Tansu Ciller.

[Bhutto] The most important thing is to lift the arms embargo against the Muslims as soon as possible. For me the issue is not so much that Muslims are being killed in Bosnia, even though I, personally, find that very painful. Rather, the issue is that people are dying there. Above all, it needs to be made clear that aggression does not pay off, that the aggression of the Serbs does not pay off. Therefore, the embargo against Bosnia must be lifted.

[Koydl] Regarding a more intensive involvement by German industry in Pakistan, one precondition would be that Pakistan release more money for civilian development. So far, your country has had to spend about 70 percent of its budget on national security. One reason for that is the conflict with India over Kashmir.

[Bhutto] This is correct. One of the reasons why Germany was able to grow was that others took care of its security needs. We have to do that ourselves. We have waged three wars, our country was divided—eastern Pakistan turned into Bangladesh—all because of Indian aggression. India is our neighbor, and because India does not get on well with any of its neighboring states, we have had to spend more than we wanted on our defense. Therefore, we have suggested to India talks on various topics—from Kashmir to the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons to missile systems and balanced troop reduction. Unfortunately, the entire matter has ended in a stalemate because India refuses to discuss seriously the problem of Kashmir.

[Koydl] In the United States opinion seems to be changing regarding the issue of Kashmir. Does the United States not support Pakistan's position now?

[Bhutto] I do not see this as a change in opinion. The United States just describes the legal situation correctly when it calls Kashmir a disputed territory. The area is still disputed because India has so far prevented the implementation of the UN Resolution demanding a referendum for Jammu and Kashmir. However, I do not share the view of other states that urge us toward a bilateral solution with India. Bilateral talks have not shown any results for more than 40 years. Therefore, we believe that we should now try multilateral paths or mediation by a third party.

[Koydl] Who could act as a mediator?

[Bhutto] We would be pleased if the United States were to act as a mediator. However, we would also be pleased if Germany played this role. Any country that has good relations with India and Pakistan could take over the role of honest broker.

[Koydl] Did you broach potential mediation by Germany in your talks with Chancellor Kohl?

[Bhutto] The chancellor was very worried about the situation on the subcontinent. However, I do not want to give any details; it is the business of my foreign minister to present this in appropriate diplomatic language.

[Koydl] The United States also seems to have given in regarding the supply of F-16 combat planes to Pakistan, the delivery of which was stopped because of the Pakistani nuclear program.

[Bhutto] It would be precipitate to speak of giving in. The situation is extremely complicated. We can say this much: There was a dialogue with the United States, which was supposed to sound out how we could improve bilateral relations. We see these F-16's as part of a purchasing contract. We paid for them. Therefore, we either want the planes or our money back. However, the delivery was suspended by a law adopted by Congress that prohibits any aid to Pakistan. Therefore, it will not be easy to find a way out. However, we believe that the Clinton administration is tackling the problem of nuclear nonproliferation in a more balanced manner. This administration is advocating the reduction and elimination of these weapons at the regional level, without picking out just Pakistan. This change is to be welcomed.

[Koydl] The reason for the problems with the United States is the Pakistani nuclear program. Last year your predecessor Nawaz Sharif told SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG: "We do not have any nuclear bomb, nor will we build one." Is this statement still correct?

[Bhutto] Let me put it this way: We could have had a nuclear weapon, but we decided against it. It is quite different whether one does not have nuclear weapons because one cannot build them or whether one does not have any even though one could build them. We do not have any nuclear weapons because Pakistan is generally committed to a policy of nonproliferation. And even though India has detonated a bomb, Pakistan has shown enormous restraint by not carrying out a nuclear test, not exporting any technology, and not producing any fissionable material. We believe that Pakistan's sensible and peace-loving attitude in this matter should be recognized and rewarded. It is also extremely important for peace and security in the world that this is recognized and rewarded.

[Koydl] During your visit to North Korea last December you defended each nation's right to nuclear technology.

[Bhutto] The purpose of my visit to North Korea was not to discuss nuclear proliferation or nonproliferation. I visited North Korea, which Pakistan has had relations with for a long time, because I was in China and, therefore, it was simpler from the logistical point of view, to go to North Korea at that time than at another time. We discussed many different material issues, such as cheap housing construction, but not the proliferation of nuclear technology.

[Koydl] But your words that any nation has a right to nuclear technology were quoted most often.

[Bhutto] I am indeed of the opinion that any nation has a right to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, absolutely. I have been someone who is aware of the environment since my time as a student. At that time I collected old newspapers and recycled them. In particular because I am convinced that the treasures of nature must be preserved, I also think that nuclear technology, which is clean and environmentally compatible, must provide us with electricity. On the other hand, I am strictly in favor of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and, therefore, I would like to see a balanced regional solution. Pakistan cannot take any unilateral steps on the subcontinent, because we have had three wars in the past. It is difficult for Pakistan to keep pace with conventional armament in India. Therefore, our only security and our only guarantee is the nuclear technology that we have acquired—even if we have not developed it to the point to which we could develop it and do not intend to do so—unless our survival were at stake.

[Koydl] Then you are clearly in favor of extending the Nonproliferation Treaty next year?

[Bhutto] On an equal basis.

[Koydl] What do you mean by that?

[Bhutto] This means that it must not be that some countries are included and others are excluded. I want a just solution for the Nonproliferation Treaty, not one that is basically discriminatory.

[Koydl] Could you explain this in a bit more detail. Who discriminates against whom?

[Bhutto] I am only saying that there should be one nuclear policy for all the world and not two different nuclear policies.

Accord Outlines German Economic Assistance

BK2204103794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Germany will provide financial assistance for development projects in hydroelectricity, environment, telecommunication, drinking water supply, health, primary education, welfare planning, and irrigation. The aid will be in the form of commercial loans, grants, and soft loans.

This decision was made at a meeting of delegations in Islamabad. The accord was signed yesterday.

'Massive Crackdown' Forces Arab Nationals To Flee

BK2104105094 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 21 Apr 94 pp 1, 8

[Text] As the government ordered a massive crackdown on Arab nationals, a majority of them has reportedly crossed into Afghanistan despite the authorities' claim that the border is sealed.

An Arab national, when asked to explain his future line of action said: "I am here as I pledged to the provincial government that I would stay here and not cross into Afghanistan but a majority of the Arabs have crossed the border and the agencies could not arrest them".

It may be mentioned here that April 18 was the deadline given to the nationals of Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt by the federal government. These nationals have appealed to the provincial and federal governments to extend the date of their extradition but the appeal was refused.

In this connection, a meeting was held at the Governor's House which was also attended by the commissioner Afghan refugees and the home secretary. The meeting decided to launch a massive crackdown on the Arab nationals. The task was assigned to the special branch but a senior branch official said that he had not so far received any directives from any quarter. He said that he was busy in a number of other assignments.

A provincial government official said that orders would definitely be implemented by the federal government and no extension in this regard would be possible. He said that 15 nationals of Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt had left Pakistan for their respective countries. The Arabs who had got air tickets or exit permits would be allowed to stay till tomorrow (Friday). Protection would be provided to the family members of those arrested under 14 foreign act. [sentence as published]

It is to be noted here that the present government had thrice given extension to the nationals of three countries. They had been here ever since the start of Afghan war. The health and construction work in Afghanistan was said be supervised by them.

Regiment From Punjab Reportedly Sent to Kashmir

BK2204025594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] A full regiment, the Rashtriya Rifles, of the Indian Armed Forces, which was previously deployed in the Indian Punjab, has now been moved to Srinagar so that it can participate in crushing the freedom struggle in occupied Kashmir.

Meanwhile, nine more people, including four freedom fighters, one civilian and two Indian soldiers, have been killed in fresh clashes at Baramula and other places. Two persons were killed while under police custody in Gandarbal. Many people have been injured as a result of indiscriminate firing by the Indian forces at Batapura in Badgam. The freedom fighters attacked the Army patrols in Kundi, Karibamalu, and the Kariba Zohra area of Shupiyan, injuring several soldiers.

Talbott Visit, Nuclear Program Viewed

BK1604112894 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Apr 94 p 7

[Article by Farhatullah Babar: "After Talbott's Visit, What Next?"]

[Text] Following the visit of US Deputy Secretary of State to India and Pakistan during which he met both government and opposition leaders Mr Talbott at his press conference in Islamabad on April 9 and in the joint Pak-US statement the next day made some significant observations about breaking the nuclear deadlock: continued dialogue through quiet diplomacy; no linkage of Kashmir with nuclear issue; agreement to pursue the goal of capping then reducing and finally eliminating nuclear weapons from South Asia; the new US initiative of enhancing "verifiable" capping with bolstering Pakistan's conventional defence capability and meeting its security concerns and a promise by both sides to continue further discussions on it. These are surely positive signs but they also beg the question: Where do we go from here?

Perhaps we must begin by formulating key strategic questions about national security and the nuclear issue and rethink some of the basic assumptions underlying theories of our national security. This should be done without in anyway suggesting that the GHQ [General Headquarters] (which identify threats to security and formulates a response) is not aware of the imperatives of such an exercise. Nor to throw odium on the generals as did the noted Indian columnist Khushwant Singh the other day in a newspaper interview "After all a vaila (idle) soldier with a gun in his hand has no sense of responsibility".

A problem with the military mind set is to militarise the realities and perceive national security only in terms of the number of army divisions, air force squadrons and naval frigates and submarines. It rarely occurs to the brass that if such were the dynamics of national security then smaller nations would not have existed alongside larger neighbours. For generals, air marshals and admirals the response to challenges of national security is gun for a gun, bullet for a bullet, bomber for a bomber and submarine for a submarine forgetting other vital elements of state power such as human development, social cohesion, national integration and people's participation in the shaping of their destinies. Did the Soviet Union

not disintegrate because of its criminal neglect of the social and human dimensions of survival and development?

Related to it is another characteristic peculiar to the military mind. A former three star general confided with this scribe the other day, "we in the army know only how to spend, not how to earn. Wherefrom the money comes, he said, is the concern of some Sartaj Aziz or a Mahboobul Haq or a Jaffarey. Beg, borrow or steal but give us money for weapons. This is the military's logic. That is why the caretaker prime minister Moin Qureshi—a crusadar of human and social development—once said during his brief stint what lengthy discourses would not be able to convey. "Curtailing military budget" he warned in Peshawar, "would amount to playing with fire". It was no idle warning.

We must begin to ponder over a few strategic questions. Answers to these questions are essential to correct our bearings and chart out our future course in a vastly changed world when the Berlin Wall has collapsed, a superpower has disintegrated, economic rather than military prowess has become the determinant of inter state relations and with the end of the Cold War, the issues of disarmament and non-proliferation have come to the centre stage of international relations. Here are the eight basic and fundamental strategic questions:

—FIRST: Will our security be enhanced or undermined by open acquisition of nuclear weapons and brandishing them too as we have been doing in the past? Will our acquisition of nuclear weapons deter or provoke India to do likewise and in that event whose security would be more undermined—India's or Pakistan's—keeping in view India's vast scientific, technological and nuclear infrastructure and geographical advantages?

—SECOND: Is the overall cost of nuclear weapons development bearable for a country like Pakistan—cost not simply in terms of fabricating a crude device but also in terms of constantly improving and upgrading it, building delivery systems apart from the intangible cost iof diplomatic and political isolation, lost opportunities of International cooperation in the development of nuclear power plants for power generation and the suspension of economic and military aid?

—THIRD: Can a weapon of ultimate resort like the nuclear weapon be used in any eventuality? Since World War II it has not been used. Former US president Nixon has recalled how on five different occasions he came close to deciding about using a nuclear weapon—thrice over Vietnam—but each time after debate and reconsideration, decided not to. Should a weapon which cannot be used be made at all and that too at such an exorbitant cost?

—FOURTH: Does the so called theory of deterrence still hold good or it needs reexamination. [sentence as published] The post Hiroshima history begs the question: what if a nation is not deterred? Vietnam was not deterred by the US. Afghanistan could not be deterred by the mighty nuclear arsenal of the USSR. And more recently, Iraq was not deterred by US nuclear weapons even though it was routed in the end by superior conventional military technology. Is there any sound basis for our presumption that in case of India, it will be deterred and not provoked by a nuclear Pakistan?

—FIFTH: Granted that India is our enemy, is immoral and wicked. But is India also so fanatic to expose itself to unacceptable damage by starting a nuclear war with Pakistan?

—SIXTH: "In the event of a first strike", claimed General Beg recently in Karachi, " India's conventional capability will be wiped out". Sounds pleasing to the ears. But what if India strikes first, or absorbs the first strike and retaliates? Will we be able to withstand it.

—SEVENTH: In spite of universal clamour for a complete ban on nuclear testing, Britain and France are reluctant because they still consider testing of a nuclear weapon essential for inducting it into the war machine as a reliable weapon. This is because a battlefield nuclear weapon is vastly different from a nuclear device (which may have more propaganda but little strategic value). Pakistan's alleged nuclear device remains untested. What if it turns out to be a dud and the bluff is called?

—EIGHTH: We seek to link the resolution of Kashmir with Pakistan's nuclear capability. But Kashmiris are now on their own, fighting their own battle of liberation. How can we take Kashmiris for granted in a nuclear bargain with the US? What if tomorrow the Kashmiris demand the third option of independence and reject the Pakistani price?

These are only some of the strategic questions and answers which are unlikely to come for discussion behind closed doors in the GHQ or in the semi-lit corridors of the Foreign Office. Answer to them may be found by tearing apart the shroud of secretary around theories of national security and initiating an open public debate. When Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told the brass at the National Defence College last month the "problems of security and development need an integrated approach" she was only making an understatement because perhaps she too does not want to play with fire. It will be a pity if the nuclear roller coasters kept their eyes shut to the realities. They must remember that the stern dynamics of nations' survival and development seldom pause for pity.

Supreme Court Orders Restoration of NWFP Assembly

BK2204020994 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] The Supreme Court of Pakistan has by a majority vote held that on the revival of the Provincial Assembly of the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] on the lapse of the proclamation issued by the president, the chief minister and his cabinet will stand revived.

The court clarified that it would be open to the governor to refix the date and time in accordance with Article 130 (5) of the Constitution, requiring the chief minister to obtain a vote of confidence from the assembly.

The two dissenting judges were of the view that the petition [by the former chief minister] was not maintainable and would therefore stand dismissed.